APA Documentation Style

Academic writing standards require you to credit all sources that you use to write a paper, report, or study. The American Psychological Association (APA) documentation style provides a guideline for properly crediting your sources by requiring notes in the text of your work that point the reader to an alphabetical list of your sources, called “references”. Properly citing your sources of information allows a reader to locate the original sources of information you used in your writing and will also help you avoid the serious offense of plagiarism.

For more detailed information about APA documentation style, and to see examples not listed here, consult the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th ed. (Ref. 808.02 Pu960a6), Research and Documentation Online http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/RES5e_ch06_o.html, or The Purdue University Online Writing Lab (OWL) http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/.

Parenthetical documentation directs the reader to the specific sources of information that you are referencing in the body of your paper. These listings must direct the reader to a particular work listed on your “References” page. In most cases the author’s last name and the year of publication, in parentheses, are enough to identify the source you used. If you need to cite a specific part of the source, include the page number.

Example: A recent study of global inflation (Rogoff, 1998) showed that…

Example: During the 1980s global inflation remained steady at around 15 percent (Rogoff, 1998, p.49).

If you are already referring to the author’s name in the text of your paper, then you need only cite the publication year, and if applicable, the specific page number, in parentheses.

Example: In a recent study, Rogoff (1998) found that…

For more information and examples, see the section beginning on p.174-9 and Table 6.1 on p. 177 in the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th ed., Ref. 808.02 Pu960a6.

CITATIONS

Book
Author’s Last name, First initial. Middle initial. (Year). Title of chapter or essay if applicable. Title of book. Publication location: Publisher.

Article, print version
Author’s Last name, First initial. Middle initial. (Year or date of publication). Title of article. Title of Periodical, Vol.#, page number(s).

Article, electronic version, with DOI (digital object identifier, an alpha-numeric string used to link to web content)
Author’s Last name, First initial. Middle initial. (Year or date of publication). Title of article. Title of Periodical, Vol.#, page number(s) if applicable. doi:##.####/##.####

Article, electronic version, without DOI
Author’s Last name, First initial. Middle initial. (Year or date of publication). Title of article. Title of Periodical, Vol.#, page number(s) if applicable. Retrieved from http://xxxxxxx.xxx

Internet citation
Author’s Last name, First Initial. Middle initial. (date of posting). Title of Web page. [Type of internet source] Retrieved date, from Responsible Entity: URL
**PRINT & VIDEO RESOURCES**

**Book with one author**

**Book with two authors**

**Note**: Lists of 2 or 3 authors use the ampersand (&) not the word “and.” If there are three to six authors, list each author in the order used on the title page/citation. After the sixth author, use “et al.” to indicate the remaining authors.

**Chapter in a volume in a series**

**Encyclopedia article**

**Magazine article**

**Newspaper article**

**Article from journal with continuous pagination**

**Article from journal with new pagination in each issue**

**Government publication**

**Television broadcast**

**Motion picture**
Online periodical article from a database (e.g. ProQuest) without DOI

Online periodical article from a database (e.g. ProQuest) with DOI

Online periodical article from a Web site (whose URL or content may change over time)

Information from a Web site

Corporate author on a Web site

Electronic book, entire book

Electronic book chapter

Electronic reference work

E-mail

Internet message boards, electronic mailing lists, etc.)

Blog entry

Video blog post


