

# APA Citation Style Guide

This document serves as a simple guide to APA citations. This is not comprehensive but rather a good start to understanding APA. It should be sufficient for your success in this course; however, there are other detailed resources available.

APA citation style refers to the rules and conventions established by the American Psychological Association for documenting sources used in a research paper. APA style is used in the social sciences, education, engineering and business. APA style requires two elements for citing outside sources: Reference Citations in Text and a Reference List. Together these elements identify and credit the sources consulted in the paper and allow others to access or retrieve this material.

The examples of APA styles and formats listed here include a few of the most common types of sources. For additional examples and more detailed information about APA citation style, refer to the [www.apastyle.org](http://www.apastyle.org). A more detailed resource on APA citations is the following website maintained by Purdue University. They continuously update their website to reflect changes in APA styling. Also, refer to their sample paper to see how to structure a reference page and in-text citations: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>.

## Reference Citations in Text

Citations to sources are placed in the text of the paper in order to briefly identify sources for readers and enable them to locate the source of the cited information in the Reference List. These parenthetical (in text) references include the author's last name and the year of publication enclosed in parentheses. Citations are used when using direct quotes and paraphrasing information. This ensures that appropriate credit is given. When the citation occurs at the end of a sentence, the period goes **after** the parentheses.

Example:

In a recent study of reaction times (Walker, 2000)...

Walker (2000) compared reaction times...

Researchers discovered negative impacts of alcohol on driving reaction times (Walker, 2000).

## Direct Quotes

When using a direct quote from a source, you must include the page number of the quote within the in text citation. This easily allows readers the opportunity to find the initial source.

Example:

According to researchers, "87% of drunk drivers experienced slowed reaction times when compared to sober drivers" (Walker, 2000, p. 181).

## Reference List

References cited in the text of a research paper must appear in a reference list. This list provides the information necessary to identify and retrieve each source. Each entry usually contains the following elements (in this order): author, year of publication, title and publishing data. The reference page is headed with the word References centered at the top of the page. All references are then included in alphabetical order without enumeration, in other words, do not number the references. So, an article published by Smith would be placed lower on the reference page than an article published by Martinez. Also, notice that the first line of each reference is flush left with a one inch margin and all subsequent lines are indented with one tab (5 spaces). Reference lists should be double spaced (just like the body of the paper). A general rule of thumb is that every reference in the Reference list should also be accompanied by at least one in text citation.

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## Important information for journal articles found via the internet

- Use a DOI (digital object identifier – identifies where information can be found on the internet) in the reference if one is assigned. The DOI is typically located on the first page of the electronic journal article, near the copyright notice. It can also be found on the database landing page for the article.
  - If you cannot find the DOI, search for it at this website:  
<http://www.crossref.org/guestquery/>
- If no DOI is assigned and you retrieved it online, the “Retrieved from...” location should be the **home page for the journal**, newsletter or magazine in the reference.
  - Do **NOT** make the “Retrieved from...” location the **search engine or the database** where you found the article. A search engine/database location may change, but a source of information can always be found by searching a home page.
- Do not include a retrieval date (the date you looked up the information).
- Do not include both the DOI and retrieval information. You only need to include one of these options.

## Common Examples

### Book (single author)

Reference:

Sheril, R. D. (1956). *The terrifying future: Contemplating color television*. San Diego: Halstead.

In text citation:

(Sheril, 1956)

### Online Newspaper article (two authors)

Reference:

Lichtblau, E., & Shane, S. (2010, February 19). Report faults 2 authors of Bush terror memos. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <http://www.nytimes.com>

In text citation:

(Lichtblau & Shane, 2010)

### Journal article with DOI (3-5 authors):

Reference:

Judge, T. A., Hurst, C., & Simon, L. S. (2009). Does it pay to be smart, attractive, or confident (or all three)? Relationships among general mental ability, physical attractiveness, core self-evaluations, and income. *Journal of Applied Psychology*, 94(3), 742-755. doi: 10.1037/a0015497

In text citation:

First citation: (Judge, Hurst & Simon, 2009)

Subsequent citations: (Judge et al., 2009)

Journal article without DOI (6-7 authors):

Reference:

Dunne, E. F., Unger, E. R., Sternberg, M., McQuillan, G., Swan, D. C., Patel, S. S., & Markowitz, L. E.

(2007). Prevalence of HPV infection among females in the United States. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 297(8), 813-819. Retrieved from <http://jama.ama-assn.org/>.

In text citation:

(Dunne et al., 2007)

Journal article without DOI (8 or more authors):

Note: You include the first 6 authors, after the ellipsis (3 dots...) you include the last author. Therefore, only 7 authors' names are visible in the reference page citation.

Reference:

Cuzick, J., Beverley, E., Ho, L., Terry, G., Sapper, H., Mielzynska, I., ... Soutter, P. (1999). HPV testing in primary screening of older women. *British Journal of Cancer*, 81(3), 554-559. Retrieved from <http://www.nature.com/bjc/index.html>

In text citation:

(Cuzick et al., 1999)

Videos & Movies

Reference:

Palfreman, J. (Producer and Director) & Reid, T.R. (Co-Writer). (2008). Sick around the world.

[Television series episode]. In Mangini, T. (Director) *Frontline*. Arlington, VA: PBS. Available from <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/sickaroundtheworld/view/>

In text citation:

(Palfreman & Reid, 2008)

Reference:

David, L. (Producer) & Guggenheim, D. (Director). (2006). *An inconvenient truth* [Motion picture].

United States: Lawrence Bender Productions.

In text citation:

(David & Guggenheim, 2006)

### Website, organization or association as author, no date

When there is no date for a reference, we still include information indicating that there is no date. So, we use the abbreviation “n.d.” to indicate “no date”. We never exclude the date from a reference, even in the absence of the information. Keep in mind that “last update” of a website is not the same as the publication date. In these instances, it is important to use “n.d.”

When the author is an organization, be sure to fully list the organization name. The organization name becomes the author. Do not rearrange the order of the organization name to fit a “typical” first and last name set-up.

Reference:

American Cancer Society. (n.d.). Overview of bladder cancer. Retrieved from

[http://www.cancer.org/docroot/CRI/CRI\\_2\\_1x.asp?dt=44](http://www.cancer.org/docroot/CRI/CRI_2_1x.asp?dt=44)

In text citation:

(American Cancer Society, n.d.)

\*See the next page for a sample Reference List using all references cited in this document\*

## References

- American Cancer Society. (n.d.). Overview of bladder cancer. Retrieved from [http://www.cancer.org/docroot/CRI/CRI\\_2\\_1x.asp?dt=44](http://www.cancer.org/docroot/CRI/CRI_2_1x.asp?dt=44)
- Cuzick, J., Beverley, E., Ho, L., Terry, G., Sapper, H., Mielzynska, I., ... Soutter, P. (1999). HPV testing in primary screening of older women. *British Journal of Cancer*, *81*(3), 554-559. Retrieved from <http://www.nature.com/bjc/index.html>
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- Lichtblau, E., & Shane, S. (2010, February 19). Report faults 2 authors of Bush terror memos. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <http://www.nytimes.com>
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- Sheril, R. D. (1956). *The terrifying future: Contemplating color television*. San Diego: Halstead.