

## APA Citations Quick Guide

### APA References

The standard citation style guide for the social sciences is the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th edition*.

The business, education, health science, public service, communication, and social science departments recommend APA format for papers written in these fields.

Two types of citations are included in most research papers: 1) citations within the text of the document and 2) a list of reference citations at the end of the paper.

#### In-Text Citations:

In-text citations appear in the body of your paper. They identify your use of an idea or quotation from one of your sources. The APA Handbook uses the author-date citation system for in-text citations.

#### Reference Citations:

Information about the sources you use in your work are included as a separate list at the end of the paper. The APA Handbook suggests using the title, "References", for the list.

**Any source information that you provide in an in-text citation must correspond to a source on your Reference page.**

### APA Chart of In-Text Examples

| Type of Citation  | First Citation in Text                                 | Subsequent Citations in Text | Parenthetical Format, First Citation in Text              | Parenthetical Format, Subsequent Citations in Text |
|---|--|------------------------------|---|--|
| 1 work by 1 author                                      | Harris (2003)  | Harris (2003)                | (Harris, 2003).   | (Harris, 2003).                                    |
| 1 work by 2 authors                                     | Harris and Ramirez (2011)                              | Harris and Ramirez (2011)    | (Harris & Ramirez, 2011).                                 | (Harris & Ramirez, 2011).                          |
| 1 work by 3-5 authors                                   | Peet, Young, and Collins (1998)                        | Peet et al. (1998)           | (Peet, Young, & Collins, 1998).                           | (Peet et al., 1998).                               |
| 1 work by 6 or more authors                             | Hughes et al. (2009)                                   | Hughes et al. (2009)         | (Hughes et al., 2009).                                    | (Hughes et al., 2009).                             |
| Groups (readily identified through acronyms) as authors | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC, 2016) | CDC (2016)                   | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], (2016). | (CDC, 2016).                                       |
| Groups (no acronym) as authors                          | Stanford University (2010)                             | Stanford University (2010)   | (Stanford University, 2010).                              | (Stanford University, 2010).                       |

### Helpful Hints for APA

- If a source does not have a date use "n.d." for "no date" in place of the year in the reference list citation, but not for the in-text citation. For the in-text citation, use the author(s) last names only.
- Include a DOI (digital object identifier) when available, using the format doi: #####
- The URL, with "Retrieved from" before it, should be included for Internet sources that are retrieved from the open web. If the item is on the Web behind a pay wall or database login (i.e. Ebscohost), do not use the database URL. Instead, you should locate and use the periodical's homepage (i.e. JAMA, The New York Times) URL.
- Pay attention to capitalization, italics, periods, and commas when making your reference list. For example, when formatting the title of an article, capitalize ONLY the first word, the first word after a colon (sub-title), and any proper nouns. But for periodical titles, capitalize the first and last words, and all verbs and nouns. Do not capitalize articles, such as "the" or "of".

**Example Article Title:** Creating OER: One librarian's experience with a homegrown open educational resources project

**Periodical Title:** Journal of American History

## Reference Examples

| Material Type                       | In-text Citation                                  | Reference List   |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| Book with one author                | (Mougayar, 2016).                                 | Mougayar, W. (2016). <i>The business blockchain: Promise, practice, and application of the next Internet technology</i> . Hoboken, NJ: Wiley & Sons, Inc.  |
| Website with no author and no date  | ("Fort Frederica", n.d.)                          | Fort Frederica. (n.d.). <i>National Parks Service</i> . U.S. Department of the Interior. Retrieved from <a href="https://home.nps.gov/fofr/forteachers/curriculummaterials.htm">https://home.nps.gov/fofr/forteachers/curriculummaterials.htm</a>  |
| Book with an organization as author | (American Psychological Association [APA], 2009). | American Psychological Association. (2009). <i>Publication manual of the American psychological association</i> (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.   |
| Article from a scholarly journal    | (Perera & Chang, 2015).                           | Perera, M. J., & Chang, E. C. (2015). Depressive symptoms in South Asian, East Asian, and European Americans: Evidence for ethnic differences in coping with academic versus interpersonal stress? <i>Asian American Journal of Psychology</i> , 6(4), 350-358. doi:10.1037/aap0000030                                     |
| One page of a website               | (American Diabetes Association, 2017).            | American Diabetes Association. (2017, January 19). <i>Advocacy priorities: Federal priorities</i> . Retrieved from <a href="http://www.diabetes.org/advocacy/advocacy-priorities/federal-priorities.html?loc=adv-slabnav">http://www.diabetes.org/advocacy/advocacy-priorities/federal-priorities.html?loc=adv-slabnav</a> |

## Additional Resources

For additional APA Information and writing resources, please visit:

Purdue University's Online Writing Lab (OWL): [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue\\_owl.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html)

American Psychological Association: <https://apastyle.apa.org/>

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: <https://guides.lib.unc.edu/citing-information>

## In-Text Citations

In-text references provide a means for you to give credit when using others' words, facts, or ideas. APA style uses parenthetical notations to identify the source (author's surname), the year of publication (2017), and the specific location (i.e., p. 5 or pp. 5-7) from which you borrowed material.

Place the in-text citation as near as possible to the material documented. In-text citations are typically placed after the author's name or at the end of a sentence or paragraph.

### Example:

According to B.F. Skinner (1971), behavior analysis is necessary for society because "almost all major problems involve human behavior" (24).

or

Behavior analysis is necessary for society because "almost all major problems involve human behavior" (Skinner, 1971, p. 24).

### References

Skinner, B.F. (1971). *Beyond Freedom and Dignity*. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf.