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## APA Citation Style Basics

**APA** refers to paper guidelines developed by the American Psychological Association. It outlines methods of formatting a paper as well as methods of applying citations when information from various sources is borrowed.

When borrowing information from another work, or directly quoting another work, APA citations are used by citing the name of the author, followed by the publication year of the source; this is known as the author-date method.

With APA style, information is cited in two ways: within the text of your paper, and in your reference list at the end of your paper.

### WITHIN THE TEXT OF YOUR PAPER

In the body of your paper, the last name of the source's author is given first followed by the date of the publication. When quoting a passage, the specific page number is included in the citation. If a direct quote is less than 40 words, quotation marks are used. If the quote is more than 40 words, a block text is used and quotation marks are not used.

### EXAMPLES ON HOW TO CITE WITHIN YOUR PAPER

#### 1. One author

In one academic study (Johnson, 1990), college students learned...

#### 2. Two authors:

- When a source has two or more authors, cite both names every time you reference the work in your paper.

In one academic study (Smith & Jones, 2000), college ....

#### 3. Three or more authors:

- When a work has three or more authors, include only the first author followed by et al.

Alec et al. (2008) wrote that...

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#### 4. Unknown or unlisted author:

- The first few words of the source should be used instead.
- Include double quotation marks around the title of chapters in books, journal articles and web pages, journal articles, etc.

There is support for natural medicines (“Naturopathic benefits,” 2010).

- Italicize the title of periodicals, books, brochures, or reports.

Natural medicine is often preferred over prescription drugs (*Naturopathy Today*, 2009).

#### 5. Citing more than one work with the same idea or while making a point in your paper:

- Citing work from more than one source should appear alphabetically

Several academic studies (Abigail & Cook, 2008; Bradley, 2009, 2010; McKellar, 2010) conclude that...

#### 6. Citing specific sections of a source:

- Always provide the page number when using quotations or when referring to a particular or specific graph, chart, table, or page. When citing, the word *page* is abbreviated but *chapter* is not.

The Latin document was initially believed to have been written by Augustus (Jones, 2007, chapter 9) but scholars found that it was not (Palmer, 2008, p. 60).

- Regarding an online source, if page numbers are absent, cite the heading and the number of the paragraph following it.

The clerk stated that she enjoyed playing Halo herself (Ryan, 2010, Video Games Today section, para.1).

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## CITATIONS IN A REFERENCE LIST

All sources cited in the body of your paper need to be listed in alphabetical order in a separate section titled, “References” provided at the end of your paper. In general, the citation should include the author’s name, year of publication, title and publication information. **BUT** different sources require different and more specific information, so check with the Library Coordinator. All the citations on the References page should be double spaced with a hanging indent.

If you’re including more than one source by the same author, then they would be ordered by the publication year.

### 1. Books

- Include Author(s), publication date, title, edition and publishing information.
- Book titles should be in italics with only the first letter and proper nouns capitalized.

Gregory, G., & Parry, T. (2006). *Designing brain-compatible learning* (3rd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin.

Strunk, W., Jr. & White, E. B. (1979). *The Guide to everything and then some more stuff*. New York, NY: MacMillian.

### 2. Chapter in a Book

- Include chapter author(s), publication date, chapter title, book author, book title, edition, pages and publishing information.

Berquist , J. M. (1992). German Americans. In J. D. Buenker & L. A. Ratner (Eds.), *Multiculturalism in the United States: A comparative guide to acculturation and ethnicity* (pp.53-76). New York, NY: Greenwood.

### 3. Online Periodical Articles

**Most of the periodical articles from our electronic sources will provide the correct citation. Look for “Citation Tools” or “Cite This” and ensure you choose APA.**

When citing a journal, if the journal has a DOI (alphanumeric string attached to the article) we provide this first if it is listed instead of citing a web URL. The DOI is usually found on the first page of the electronic journal article near the copyright notice. Further information regarding the location is not needed if the DOI is provided. However, if there is no DOI, then the URL link belonging to the source needs to be provided, and no period is left at the end of the URL, do not use hyphens or alter the URL in any form. Simply, list the URL of the journal’s database. Journal titles are also italicized.

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- Journal article with DOI provided

Paivio, A. (1975). Perceptual comparisons through the mind's eye. *Memory & Cognition*, 3, 635-647. doi: 10.1037/0278-6133.24.2.225

- Journal article with no DOI and citing URL

Hamfi, A. G. (1981). The Funny nature of dogs. *E-journal of Applied Psychology*, 2(2), 38-48. Retrieved from <http://ojs.lib.swin.edu.au/index.php.fdo>

## 4. Hardcopy periodical articles

- When citing a magazine, the author(s), entire publication date, article title, magazine title, volume, and page numbers are listed. The magazine title is italicized.

Smith, A. (2009, June 15). Discovering the joys of bird watching. *Birds and Blooms*, 12(2), 54-55.

## 5. Internet Sources

- Internet documents with no author or date are cited by the title (n.d.) and URL. Internet document titles are italicized.

*Hispanic men in the corporate world.* (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://www/psychek.com/psy/edu.htm>

- Here's another example from a University program or department:

Johns, K., & Sims, P. T. (2007). *Social structures within political organizations*. Retrieved from <http://www.mu.edu/publications/papers.html>

## 6. Online Newspaper Articles

- The author(s), entire publication date, article title, and URL should be listed. The article is not italicized, but the source (the name of the newspaper) is.

Michaels, M. G. (2008, April 9). Education reform needed. *The Oregonian*. Retrieved from <http://www.theoregonian.com>

## 7. Blog post

Alex, J. (n.d.). *The Future of libraries*. [Web log post]. Retrieved from <http://www.blogspace.com/jennthelibrarian/2009/1/23.php>