What is APA Style?

APA Style is the reference format used by the American Psychological Association. It is widely accepted in the social sciences, as well as in other fields like business, education and nursing.

This guide shows formats and examples for the most commonly used resources.

For full details on citing PRINT sources, see the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 5th ed. 2001 – REF 808.06615 P96AP

For full details on citing ELECTRONIC sources, see the *APA Style Guide to Electronic References*, 2007 – REF 808 A639e

For further assistance please contact the Academic Skills Center at 973-290-4325, or the Mahoney Library Reference Desk at 973-290-4248 or mahoneyonline@cse.edu.

General Rules of APA Style

- Your paper and reference list (bibliography) should be double-spaced throughout
- Any entry that appears in your reference list must also be cited in the text of your paper
- Citations should display with the first line flush against the left margin, any subsequent lines indented
- For an article, book or document title: only capitalize the first word in the title, the first word in the subtitle (if there is one), and any proper names/nouns
- For a periodical title: all important words should be capitalized
- Authors should be listed in the order in which they appear in the actual publication
- If no author or corporate author is given, put the title in the author position in your citation – alphabetize by the first significant word in the title

DOI

One key change introduced by the 2007 update is the use of the DOI, or Digital Object Identifier. The DOI name is a unique alphanumeric code that may be assigned to any digital content. The DOI name enables researchers to identify and locate a digital document, even if its original web host has changed. A DOI assigned to a particular digital object may help its creator in protecting his/her intellectual property.

A DOI can be assigned to any digital object: websites, journals, periodical articles, ebooks, images, audio/video files, software programs, etc.

Below is an example of how a DOI is displayed. Sometimes you may need to mouse over a link in order to find it.
doi: 10.1086%2F430809

Use the DOI to retrieve an electronic item by pasting it into the following site:
http://dx.doi.org/

To turn your DOI into a URL, simply append it to the URL above: http://dx.doi.org/10.1086%2F430809
Electronic (Digital) Sources

Note: URLs and DOIs should not be underlined. Do not place periods after a URL or DOI number. No retrieval date is necessary for content that is not likely to be changed or updated (e.g. a journal article or book, or anything else that appears in pdf format).

**Journal Article with DOI assigned**


Note: If an article has a DOI assigned, there is no need to cite the database name or URL. Journal title and volume number should be in italics. Issue number in parentheses is in regular (unitalicized) type.

**Journal Article with no DOI assigned, from a database**


Note: If you cannot find a DOI in your citation or article, cite it using the database name. Do not include the URL. Journal title and volume number should be in italics. Issue number in parentheses is in regular (unitalicized) type.

**Journal Article with no DOI assigned, final version, open access or free from publisher**


Note: Cite the URL for the article or document, not the e-journal home page. Journal title and volume number should be in italics. Issue number in parentheses is in regular (unitalicized) type.

**Abstract Only**


Note: While it is preferable to use the entire article, an abstract may be cited.

**Magazine Article with no DOI assigned, retrieved from online database**


Note: Cite the full publication date (not merely the year).
Magazine Article with no DOI assigned, free from publisher website


Note: Many popular magazine articles available from publisher websites do not provide volume and/or issue numbers, or page numbers. The URL should link directly to the article. Cite the full publication date (not merely the year).

Newspaper Article, retrieved from a database


Note: Cite the full publication date (not merely the year). Insert p. or pp. before the page numbers. Use the database name; do not include a URL.

Newspaper Article, retrieved from the publisher website or newswire


Note: Cite the full publication date (not merely the year). Insert p. or pp. before the page numbers. Include the date of retrieval since newspaper websites are likely to change (articles are often moved into a pay-for-access archive after a certain amount of time). Cite the URL for the article itself, not the newspaper home page.

Dissertation or Thesis, retrieved from a database


Note: Cite the database name. Do not include the URL. Do include the database accession number, if available.

Dissertation or Thesis, retrieved from university or individual website


Note: Cite the type of publication – degree and dissertation or thesis – and the name of the university.

Online Report

Entry in an Online Encyclopedia or Reference Book Database


Note: If author given, list that first. If no author given, begin with the entry title. Date of retrieval should be included because the most recent date for changes may not be available. URL should lead to encyclopedia home page, not directly to the entry cited.

ERIC Document


Conference Presentation


Note: If linking directly to the presentation, use ‘Retrieved from,’ but if linking to the page where the presentation can be downloaded, use ‘Available from.’

Document or Page on a website, author and update date given


Document or Page on a website, no update date given


Note: If there is no update date on the web page or site, enter n.d. (no date), and include the date you retrieved it.

Document or Page on a large government or university website, no author


Entire Website

The PBS Frontline web site offers full video recordings of many of its more recent documentary reports (http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/).

Note: Entire websites (as opposed to a specific document or page on a website) should not be cited in your reference list, but rather in the text of your paper.
Wiki


*Note:* Wiki pages or entries are collaborative and may not have a definitive author. In such cases use the page title in the author position. If no update date can be found, include date of retrieval.

Weblog (Blog) Post


Audio Podcast


Video Podcast


Video Weblog Post


Print Sources & Physical Media

Book


Book with Editor


Chapter in a Book

Signed Entry in Edited Multivolume Encyclopedia, revised


Journal Article


Magazine Article


Newspaper Article


Videos/DVDs


In-Text Citations

When referencing information from a particular source, APA requires that you include the name of the author and date of publication in the text of your paper.

- If you mention the author’s name(s) in a sentence, simply put the date in parentheses following the name.
- You may also put the author’s name and publication date in parentheses, following the sentence.
- If you use a direct quotation, enclose it in quotation marks. After the quotation, place in parentheses the page number where you found it, preceded by p.
- If there are six or more authors, include only the first author, followed by et al.
- If you have a long corporate author name, include the entire name in your first reference to it, abbreviate it in any subsequent references.
- If no author is given, use the publication title, if brief, or the first few words of a longer title.

RefWorks

This web-based citation tool is available to all students, faculty and staff of the College of Saint Elizabeth. Use it to collect, organize, annotate, and cite your research materials in any format that you wish.

Access RefWorks from the Mahoney Library website.