

APA Writing Requirements

Detailed requirements can be found in the Fifth Edition of the *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association*. Having your own copy is highly recommended.

- Use of unbiased language in all papers and presentations, according to the guidelines in Table 2.1, pages 70-76, is very important.
- Students are encouraged to read Chapter Three on APA editorial style, pages 77-214.
- Grading decisions and specific style requirements are left to each faculty member in each specific course. This is important to remember in the writing and grading process.
- Citations, use of quotations, and references are very important to avoid plagiarism.
- In-text citations. Page numbers are not required for in-text citations. All citations contained within the body of a student paper should be cited in the following manners:

Smith believed that the weather was cold (1993).

The weather was cold (Smith, 1993).

- Direct quotations. Note that quotes over 40 words have special requirements. All quoted material requires a page reference with the author citation:

He stated, “Man, this weather is cold” (Smith, 1993, p. 233).

Smith (1993) found that “the weather was cold” (p. 233).

- References. All references cited in the text must appear in the reference list and vice-versa. The reference list should be in alphabetical order. Students must construct references according to APA style:

Smith, J.K. (1993). *Why the weather is cold*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

Smith, J.K. (1993). Why the weather is cold. *Journal of Cold Weather*, 21(2), 223-225.

- Note differences in number of authors or editors, type of publication, the number of the edition, and so forth. There are many small nuances in APA style that need to be paid careful attention.
- These details can all be found in your manual, and help can be found online, in the writing center, and from your professors.