

A Guide to APA Style

APA (American Psychological Association) style is mostly used for social science classes and in some history and humanities classes. This should help you with some **general examples** of in-text citation and reference page citation.

All information on this handout comes from the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association 7th edition. Please consult this manual for more information and/or detailed examples. Note that the writing center does have a separate handout for citations titled "A Guide to APA Formatting."

In-text Citations

<u>Author Type</u>	<u>Parenthetical citation</u>	<u>Narrative citation</u>
One author (Last name, year)	(Smith, 2020)	Smith (2020)
Two authors	(Smith & Johnson, 2018)	Smith and Johnson (2018)
Three or more authors*	(Smith et al., 2019)	Smith et al. (2019)
Group/Organization with abbreviation		
First citation	(American Psychological Association [APA], 2020)	American Psychological Association (APA, 2020)
Following citations	(APA, 2020)	APA (2020)
Group/Organization w/o abbreviation	(Writing Center, 2018)	Writing Center (2018)
No date - use n.d. (no date)	(Johnson, n.d.)	Johnson (n.d.)
No author - use title of reference	(King James Bible, 2017)	King James Bible (2017)

* In the 7th edition, only the first author is mentioned in every citation, **including the first mention.**

A direct quote: The author's last name, the year of publication, and the page number for reference (preceded by "p").

Example: According to Smith and Johnson (1998), "Students often had difficulty using APA style, especially when it was their first time" (p. 199).

Example: They stated, "Students often had difficulty using APA style" (Jones & Smith, 1998, p.199).

A direct quote without page numbers: The author's last name, the year of publication, and **section or paragraph** for reference.

Example: For those curious about the writing center, "Consultants are trained to support you in your revisions -- they are not going to make changes for you or write in your place, " (Writing Center, n.d., **"What to Expect at a Session" section, para. 2**)

References

Basic Rules:

- Reference lists should be on a new page unless specified by your professor.
- All lines after the first line should have a **hanging indent**: indented ½ inch
- Reference list entries should be alphabetized by the last name of the author
- For multiple entries by the same author, list them chronologically starting with the earliest to the most recent (Smith, 2015; Smith, 2016, etc)
- Double-space all references, even within references.

Book: Last name, initial(s) of the author. (Year of publication). *Title of work* (edition # if possible). Name of publisher. DOI/URL if digital

Example: Brown, L.S. (2018). *Feminist therapy* (2nd ed.). American Psychological Association.
<https://doi.org/10.1037/0000092-000>

Webpage on news website:

Last name, first initial(s) of author. (Date of publication). *Title of work*. Website name. URL.

Example: Amos, J. (2020, February 5). World's biggest iceberg makes a run for it. BBC.
<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-51389690>

Webpage on website with individual or group author*:

Last name, first initial(s) of author/ name of group. (Date of publication). Title of work. Website name. URL.

Example: World Health Organization. (2018, March). Questions and answers on immunization and vaccine safety. <https://www.who.int/features/qa/84/en>

*When authors name and site name are the same, omit website name.

Journal: Last name, initial(s) of the author. (Year of publication). Title of article. Journal, Issue # (volume#), Page numbers. DOI.

Example: McCauley, S.M. & Christiansen, M.H. (2019). Language learning as language use: A cross-linguistic model of child language development. *Psychological Review*, 126(1), 1-51. <https://doi.org/10/1037/rev0000126>.

Film/Video: Last name, initial(s) of director. (Director)*.(Year). *Title* [description]. Film company.

Example: Forman, M. (Director). *One flew over the cuckoo's nest* [Film]. United Artists.

**If no director/not specified, use someone of similar role (guest expert, producer, etc).*

*** Add a retrieval date if the information is likely to change over time. This appears before the URL.

For more specifics, visit the Writing Center to use our APA 7th edition manuals.