A Quick Guide to APA Citations

APA is used mostly for social science classes and in some history and humanities classes. This citation style emphasizes the year, which is why it is the first piece of information following the author(s) names, because currency is important in the fields that use APA style.

Reference(s) Page

The following examples show the basic information needed for common sources. Notice the hanging indent: the first line of each source is flush left while subsequent lines are indented. Your sources should be in alphabetical order.

Lastname, A., Lastname, B., & Lastname, C. (Year, Month Day). Title of article: Capital at beginning of subtitle too. Title of Periodical, (volume)issue, page numbers.

Lastname, D., & Lastname, E. (Year). Title of book. Location: Publisher.

Lastname, F. (Year, Month Day). Title of online article. Retrieved from URL

Note: These can be combined depending on the source you are using. For example, an online newspaper would use the same format as a print periodical, but with ending used for online sources ("Retrieved from URL") following the title of the newspaper (most newspapers do not have volume or issues numbers and online sources do not have page numbers).

Note: Journal articles should be cited as print sources (no database information or URL is necessary) because they can be found in print as well as electronically.

In-Text Citations

In-text citations should match source material in your paper with the source information on your references page. Readers will look for the information on the left side of a reference, usually the author. Page or paragraph numbers (if your electronic source does not have a PDF version) are required for direct quotes and are represented by p. (page), pp. (pages), or para. (paragraph).

Author and Author (Year) stated......... (p. #).

…..................................... (Author & Author, Year, p. #).

Note: When you have multiple authors with the same last name, include their first initials to distinguish them.

A. Lastname and B. Lastname stated......... (#).

…..................................... (A. Lastname and B. Lastname #).

For information about how to cite other kinds of sources, please consult the Publication Manual of American Psychological Association, www.dianahacker.com/resdoc, a writing consultant, Grammar Chat, or your professor.