

# A Guide to APA Style

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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 7<sup>th</sup> 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

<b>Author Type</b>	<b>Parenthetical citation</b>	<b>Narrative citation</b>
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, Volume # (Issue #), 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).