APA Reference Guide

What is APA format?

The American Psychological Association (APA), both a professional association and a publisher, has established style rules and procedures to encourage ease of reading, accuracy, and respect in scholarly communication. In 2009, the 6th edition of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* was published. The book has assisted countless users with the scholarly writing process, instructing them in the creation of documents that are formatted with proper headings, tables, and figures. Additionally, they are instructed in the importance of word choices and the ethics of authorship.

Basic APA Citation Elements & Order of Appearance

Author(s) + Date + Title + Source

- author(s)
- date
- article title
- journal title
- volume, issue and page(s)


How do I get help?

- Always check with your instructor. He or she is the final authority on what your paper should look like, even if his or her requirements differ from the guidelines outlined in the APA manual!

- Online Writing Center consultants are available.
  - Visit their webpage: [http://www.nu.edu/studentservices/writingcenter](http://www.nu.edu/studentservices/writingcenter)
  - Go to the online scheduler and make an appointment for an online consultation: [http://nu.mywconline.com](http://nu.mywconline.com)

- Librarians are available for reference assistance.
  - Call 1-866-NU-ACCESS (x7900 or “Library”)

Library
refdesk@nu.edu
To ask for reference assistance

Writing Center
http://nu.mywconline.com
To schedule an online consultation
### Sample Reference List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Citation Types</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
APA In-Text Citation Examples

When citing a source in the text of your paper, APA style uses parenthetical in-text citations to tell readers where you obtained your information or ideas. You will give more detailed information about your sources in the reference section at the end of your paper.

You must credit any information you get from another source, including paraphrased text, direct quotations, and original ideas.

In-text citations usually contain the author’s last name and the date of publication, and are usually placed at the end of the sentence or paragraph that refers to the source. Notice, however, that the year of publication immediately follows the author’s name, even when the page number is at the end of the sentence.

**Example:** A journal article written by John Smith published in 2005, would be cited like this in the text of the paper.

If there is no author, use the first few words in the title of the source in quotes. If there is no publication date, use the initials n.d.

**Example:** A Web page called “Student Guide to Using APA,” with no publication date would be cited like this in the text of the paper.

If you are quoting directly from a source, you must include the page number where the quote is found.

**Example:** A quote by John Smith, published in a book in 2002 would be cited like this in the text of the paper.

If you are quoting from a quote within a source (secondary work), you reference the source you are using, not the source of the quote.

**Example:** A study by Seidenberg and McClelland, cited in an article by Coltheart, Curtis, Atkins, & Haller in 1993, would be cited like this in the text of the paper.

Many students have difficulty learning APA style at first (Smith, 2005, p. 122).

or

Smith (2005) stated that many students have difficulty learning APA style (p. 122).

It is important to use APA correctly so that others can verify your research (“Student Guide,” n.d.).

**Note:** Do not include the URL of a website you cite in the body of your paper. The URL will be included in your reference page at the end of the paper.

According to Smith (2002), “Quite a few students encounter difficulties whenever they attempt to learn APA for the first time” (p. 122).

or

“Quite a few students encounter difficulties whenever they attempt to learn APA for the first time” (Smith, 2002, p. 122).

“Seidenberg and McClelland’s study (as cited in Coltheart, Curtis, Atkins, & Haller, 1993, p. 53) fills a major gap in previous research.”

or

Coltheart (1993) cited the study by Seidenberg and McClelland, saying it “fills a major gap in previous research” (p. 53).

**Note:** Whenever possible, use the primary source.