



LSC-O Library's Guide to APA Citation Style



APA style is used for academic writing in courses such as biology, business, government, psychology, sociology, and nursing and other allied health. For more information, refer to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA Manual)*, 6th ed., available at the Library Help Desk. Here are some basic APA rules:

- 1. Authors:** Start all citations with author names, same order as given in the source. Give last name, a comma, and initials (only) for all names. Give up to seven authors separated by commas. Insert “&” before the final author. See first example below. If eight or more authors, give first six, an ellipsis (. . .) and last author’s name. See 3rd book example, next page. Also, see how to handle editor names in book examples.
- 2. Publication date:** For periodicals, follow author names with date as (year, Month day), (year, Month), or (year, Month/Month) as the case may be. For books, follow author names with the publication year in parentheses. Place a period outside of the parentheses.
- 3. Titles:** Follow publication date with titles, article titles with a periodical title, or title of a book. Give both titles and subtitles (if any) with a colon (:) between. Capitalize the first words of titles and subtitles. Do not capitalize any other words except for proper nouns. Titles of books and titles of periodicals (magazines, journals, newspapers, newsletters) are in *italics*. Capitalize all words in periodical titles except for conjunctions (and, or, not), articles (a, an, the) and prepositions (of, in, to, about, etc.)
- 4. Publication info:** For periodicals, add a comma after the periodical title and give *volume* (issue), numbers only, volume number in italics, issue number in parentheses. Volume (issue) numbers are sometimes not available for magazines or newspapers. For books, give the publisher’s city and state (using postal abbreviations), a colon (:) and publisher’s name. Omit extra words (Publisher, Co., Ltd., Inc.) after the publisher name.
- 5. Pages:** Add a comma after the publication info, and give starting-ending page numbers. For newspapers, use pp. before the numbers and give both section letter and page number. See newspaper example below.

Examples for periodicals: journals, magazines, newspapers, newsletters

AUTHOR/S	PUB DATE	ARTICLE TITLE	TITLE OF PERIODICAL	VOL(ISSUE)	PAGES
Zuckerman, M., & Kieffer, S. C.	(1994).	Race differences in face-ism.	<i>Journal of Personality</i> ,	66(1),	86-92.

Journal Article: After author names, give date (year only), article title, <i>journal title</i> (italicized) and <i>volume</i> (issue), as shown. Italicize volume number only. Then give page range.	Zuckerman, M., & Kieffer, S. C. (1994). Race differences in face-ism. <i>Journal of Personality</i> , 66(1), 86-92. In-text Citation: (Zuckerman & Kieffer, 1994, p. 87)
Magazine Article: A monthly or bi-monthly Give authors, date (year, Month). Give <i>volume</i> (issue) numbers after magazine title, if known, numbers only. Give page range.	Appell, D. (2009, August). Stumbling over data. <i>Scientific American</i> , 301(2), 19-20. Note: If a bi-monthly give as (year, Month/Month) i.e. (2012, May/June) In-text Citation: (Appell, 2009, p. 20)
Magazine Article: A weekly or bi-weekly Give date (year, Month day). Give <i>volume</i> (issue) after title, if known, numbers only.	Dorrien, G. (2009, July 14). Health care fix. <i>Christian Century</i> , 126(14), 12-13. In-text Citation: (Dorian, 2009, p. 13)
Newspaper Article: Give (year, Month day) after author. Use pp. before pages. Give paper section letter and page number. Give all page numbers if it skips.	Kristof, N.D. (2009, July 2). When our brains short-circuit. <i>New York Times</i> , pp. A23, A26. Note: In example, article starts on A23, skips pages and continues on A26. In-text Citation: (Kristof, 2009, A26)
Article from a library database: Cite as examples shown above (by type). Add: Retrieved from Database. Give database used.	Zuckerman, M. & Kieffer, S.C. (1994). Race differences in face-ism. <i>Journal of Personality</i> , 66(1), 86-92. Retrieved from PsycArticles. In-text Citation: (Zuckerman & Kieffer, 1994, pp. 87-88)
Article with a DOI: Test the DOI to see if it will retrieve the document at http://dx.doi.org . If an article has a working DOI, use it instead of a database name or a URL address.	Goldfinch, J., & Hughes, M. (2007). Skills, learning styles and success of first-year undergraduates. <i>Active Learning</i> , 8(3) 259-273. doi: 10.1177/1469787407081881 In-text Citation: (Goldfinch & Hughes, 2007, p. 260)



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Examples for books and other one-time publications (pamphlets, reports, manuscripts, etc.)

AUTHOR/S	YEAR	BOOK TITLE	PLACE	PUBLISHER
Vaughans, B. W.	(2011)	Nursing fundamentals demystified.	New York, NY	McGraw-Hill Medical.

Book with one author: Give last name first, comma, and initials for first and middle names (if known) for first and all authors.	Vaughans, B. W. (2011). <i>Nursing fundamentals demystified</i> . New York, NY: McGraw-Hill Medical. In-text Citation: (Vaughans, 2011, p. 30)
Book with two or three authors: Place commas after each name and "&" before the final author's name.	Michael, J. A., & Modell, H. I. (2003). <i>Active learning in college science classrooms: A working model</i> . Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum. In-text Citation: (Michael & Modell, 2003, p. 15)
Book with eight or more authors: Give the first six names, a comma, insert . . . (an ellipsis) and give final author's name.	Allan, A., Brown, B., Collins, C., Dans, D., Ellis E., Foley, F., . . . Jones, J. (2001). <i>Nursing the terminal patient</i> . Boston, MA: Praeger. In-text Citation: (Allan et al., 2001, p. 55)
Edited book: Editor name/s are in author position, with (Ed.) or (Eds.) if more than one editor, after the names.	Wall, B. M., & Keeling A. W. (Eds.). (2011). <i>Nurses on the front line: When disaster strikes</i> . New York, NY: Springer. In-text Citation: (Wall & Keeling, 2011, p. 235)
Article or chapter from edited book: Give article authors, (year) article title. Say "In" book editor names (Eds.), book title in italics. (pp. pages). Place: Publisher.	Lawrence, J. A., & Dodds, A. E. (2003). Goal-directed activities and life-span development. In J. Valsiner & K. Connolly (Eds.), <i>Handbook of developmental psychology</i> (pp. 517-533). London, England: Sage. In-text Citation: (Lawrence & Dodds, 2003, p. 524)
Article from a reference book: Give article author, year, article title. Say "In" editor's name (Ed.) <i>Reference book title</i> . Place: Publisher.	Thorpe, G. L. (1994). Agoraphobia. In V. S. Ramachandran (Ed.), <i>Encyclopedia of Human Behavior</i> . San Diego, CA: Academic Press. In-text Citation: (Thorpe, 1994, p. 58)
Book or article with no author or editor: Start with book or article title followed by year. Say "In" and give the title. Example shows an online dictionary with no date.	Heuristic. (n.d.). In <i>Merriam-Webster's online dictionary</i> (11 th ed.). Retrieved from http://www.m-w.com/dictionary/heuristic Note: If you cannot find a publication date to cite, use (n.d.) In-text Citation: (Heuristic)
Government publication: Give full corporate names, largest organization to smallest. (date) <i>Title</i> . (Pub. No.) Place: Publisher. Since many government pubs are online, our example is from an online source.	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (2007). <i>So you have asthma</i> . (NIH Publication No. 07-5248). Retrieved from http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/public/lung/asthma/have_asthma.pdf In-text Citation: (U.S.Department of Health and Human Services, 2007, p. 48)
EBook versions of any of the above books: Give full citation as shown above by types. Then say "Retrieved from" and give Database or the URL. Example is from our eBook database, eBooks on EbscoHost.	Dossey, B. M, Keegan, L., & Guzzetta, C. E. (2005). <i>Holistic nursing: A handbook for practice</i> (4th ed.). Sudbury, MA: Jones and Bartlett. Retrieved from eBooks on EbscoHost. In-text Citation: (Dossey, Keegan & Guzzetta, 2005, p.321)

Personal Communications: APA manual (page 179) says do not list personal communications (private letters, memos, e-mails, interviews, telephone conversations, etc.) in the reference list because they are not recoverable by your readers. But you may cite personal communications in the text of your paper, giving the full name, initials only, as with authors, and the date of the communication, for example:

T. K. Lutes (personal communication, April 18, 2001) stated that...



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Examples for Web pages

AUTHOR	DATE	PAGE TITLE	PAGE URL
Friedman, R. A.	(2010).	When bipolar masquerades as a happy face.	Retrieved from http://www.nytimes.com/ref/health/healthguide/bipolar_ess.html

Web page: Look for a page author. If none, start with the page title. Look for the date on the page. If none, use n.d. Give page title. Say "Retrieved from" and give full URL.	Friedman, R. A. (2010). When bipolar masquerades as a happy face. Retrieved from http://www.nytimes.com/ref/health/healthguide/bipolar_ess.html Note: Break URLs at any of the forward slashes. Never use hyphens. In-text Citation: (Friedman, 2010, para. 4)
Web page: A university site. The copyright date was found by clicking the link "Copyright Information," bottom of the page. Try your best to locate a publication date, or date of copyright.	Johnson, K. A., & Becker, J. A. (1999). Whole brain atlas. Retrieved from http://www.med.harvard.edu/aanlib/home.html In-text Citation: (Johnson & Becker, 1999)
Web page: A cable news channel Website article. No author is given. Start with the article title. Date after title.	All 33 Chile miners freed in flawless rescue. (2010, October 13). Retrieved from http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/39625809/ns/world_news-americas In-text Citation: (All 33 Chile miners freed, 2010, para. 7)

Examples of other items on the Web

AUTHOR	DATE	TITLE	FORMAT	URL
Somova, M.	(2012, December 17).	Daunting realities	[Web log post].	Retrieved from http://blogs.psychcentral.com/mindful-living/2012/12/daunting-realities/

Blog (Web log) post: Basic format for all types of Web information is the same: Author/s. (date). Document title [Format description]. Retrieved from http://URL	Somova, M. (2012, December 17). Daunting realities [Web log post]. Retrieved from http://blogs.psychcentral.com/mindful-living/2012/12/daunting-realities/ In-text Citation: (Somova, 2012, para. 3)
Video clip (YouTube): In this example the author uses a screen name, common to newer types of Web communications.	Malibudogtraining. (2009, July 21). <i>Cat uses toilet then flushes</i> [Video file]. Retrieved from http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8C4pzEgncFY In-text Citation: (Malibudogtraining, 2009)
Audio clip Podcast: Name of performer, speaker or producer. (date) Title. [Format] Retrieved from http://URL	Van Nuys, D. (Producer). (2007, December 19) <i>Shrink rap radio</i> [Audio podcast]. Retrieved from http://www.shrinkrapradio.com In-text Citation: (Van Nuys, 2007)

Examples of video and audio recordings

PRODUCER & DIRECTOR	YEAR	TITLE	MEDIUM	PLACE	STUDIO/DISTRIBUTOR
Canning, I. (Producer), & Hooper, T. (Director).	(2011).	<i>The king's speech</i>	[DVD].	Beverly Hills, CA:	Anchor Bay.

Motion picture on DVD: Other media might be Videocassette, Film, Laser Disc, Television broadcast, Film strip	Canning, I. (Producer), & Hooper, T. (Director). (2011). <i>The king's speech</i> [DVD]. Beverly Hills, CA: Anchor Bay. In-text Citation: (Canning, & Hooper, 2011)
Music recording on CD: This singer never capitalizes her name. Other media: Audiocassette, LP	lang, k. d. (2008) <i>Shadow and the frame</i> . On <i>Watershed</i> [CD]. New York, NY: Nonsuch Records. In-text Citation: (lang, 2008)



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More about citing in the text of your paper (in-text): (APA manual pages 174-179)

We have given in-text examples of citations in parentheses under each reference list example. You can also give author names and years in the text of your papers. Here are three ways to cite similar information:

- Kessler (2003) found that among epidemiological samples this result was also evident.
- In 2003, Kessler found that among epidemiological samples this result was also evident.
- Early onset results in a more persistent and severe course of the disorder (Kessler, 2003).

If you have two authors in your citation, cite both names every time the reference occurs in the text. If you have three, four or five names, cite all of the names in-text the first time. The second and subsequent times use "et al." For example:

- Kisangau, Layaruu, Hosea, and Joseph (2007) found that ... [first time citation is used in the text]
- Kisangau, et al. (2007) also found that ... [subsequent citations]

Give a page number (or a paragraph number if page number is not available) when citing a direct quote. Give the page number as (Kessler, 2003, p. 30) or (Kessler, 2003, pp. 30-31) or (Kessler, 2003, para. 4) for a paragraph number.

For more details or questions, please refer to the APA manual. The APA manual and individual help is available at the Library Help Desk (409-882-3082) or at the Learning Center (409-882-3373).

Use this checklist: Have you correctly formatted your paper and included all required elements?

Basic Format	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Each page of the document has a running head in the top left-hand corner and a page number in the top right-hand corner. The title page is numbered as page 1
<input type="checkbox"/>	The entire document is double-spaced and has 1 inch margins.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The entire document is in 12-point, Times New Roman font.
<input type="checkbox"/>	If you have heading division titles in your document, see page 62-63 of APA manual.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Paragraphs are indented ½ inch.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Abbreviations used are consistent with those listed in the APA manual, pages 106 and 180.
Title Page	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Title page includes a running head at the top of the page, flush left, all in capital letters.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Title is centered in the upper half of the page, in title case, and is not bold or underlined. Double space two lines of title.
In-text Citations	
<input type="checkbox"/>	All sources cited in the paper are on the References page.
<input type="checkbox"/>	All in-text citations are formatted correctly.
<input type="checkbox"/>	All quotations are formatted correctly. See APA manual pages 170-173.
<input type="checkbox"/>	All direct quotations include a page number.
<input type="checkbox"/>	All quotations less than 40 words are within "quotation marks."
<input type="checkbox"/>	All quotations of 40 words or more are formatted in block quotes.
<input type="checkbox"/>	If referencing more than one source within a sentence, list sources within parentheses in alphabetical order by author, separated by semicolons. (Murphy & Brown, 1990; Thatcher, 2007)
References	
<input type="checkbox"/>	All sources on the References page are cited in the paper.
<input type="checkbox"/>	References are listed in alphabetical order by the author's last name.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The References page starts on a separate page.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The page is titled References. The title is centered, and first letter is capitalized.
<input type="checkbox"/>	All references are in hanging indent format.
<input type="checkbox"/>	References are double-spaced, both within and between.