

## INTRODUCTION



# APA Citation Style

This guide provides a basic introduction to the APA citation style. It is based on the **6th edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association** published in 2010 (2009).

Copies of the manual are available at the Vanier and Webster Libraries' Reference Desks, Reference Collections and on 3-hour Reserve. The call number for the manual is *BF 76.7 A46 2010*.

The *Publication Manual* is generally used for academic writing in the social sciences. The manual itself covers many aspects of research writing including selecting a topic, evaluating sources, taking notes, plagiarism, the mechanics of writing, the format of the research paper as well as the way to cite sources.

This guide provides basic explanations and examples for the most common types of citations used by students. For additional information and examples, refer to the *Publication Manual*.

## IN-TEXT CITATIONS - OVERVIEW

When using your own words to refer indirectly to another author's work, you must identify the original source. A complete reference must appear in the Reference List at the end of your paper.

Further examples and explanations are available in Sections 6.05, 6.11-6.21 and Chapter 7 of the *Publication Manual*.

## AUTHORS

### One author

In most cases, providing the author's last name and the publication year are sufficient:  
Smith (1997) compared reaction times...

*Within a paragraph, you need not include the year in subsequent references.*

Smith (1997) compared reaction times. Smith also found that...

### **Two authors**

If there are two authors, include the last name of each and the publication year:

...as James and Ryerson (1999) demonstrated...

...as has been shown (James & Ryerson, 1999)...

### **3 - 5 authors**

If there are three to five authors, cite all authors the first time; in subsequent citations, include only the last name of the first author followed by "et al." and the year:

Williams, Jones, Smith, Bradner, and Torrington (1983) found...

Williams et al. (1983) also noticed that...

### **Corporate authors**

The names of groups that serve as authors (e.g. corporations, associations, government agencies, and study groups) are usually spelled out each time they appear in a text citation. If it will not cause confusion for the reader, names may be abbreviated thereafter:

First citation: (National Institute of Mental Health [NIMH], 1999)

Subsequent citations: (NIMH, 1999)

## **CITING SPECIFIC PARTS (PAGES, SECTIONS, & PARAGRAPHS)**

To cite a specific part of a source, indicate the page, chapter, figure, table or equation at the appropriate point in the text:

(Czapiewski & Ruby, 1995, p. 10)

(Wilmarth, 1980, Chapter 3)

For electronic sources that do not provide page numbers, use the paragraph number, if available, preceded by the ¶ symbol or abbreviation para. If neither is visible, cite the heading and the number of the paragraph following it to direct the reader to the quoted material.

(Myers, 2000, ¶ 5)

(Beutler, 2000, Conclusion section, para. 1)

For electronic sources such as Web pages, provide a reference to the author, the year and the page number (if it is a PDF document), the paragraph number if visible or a heading followed by the paragraph number.

"The current system of managed care and the current approach to defining empirically supported treatments are shortsighted" (Beutler, 2000, Conclusion section, ¶ 1)

## **INDIRECT CITATIONS**

When citing a work which is discussed in another work, include the original author's name in an explanatory sentence, and then include the source you actually consulted in your parenthetical reference and in your reference list.

Smith argued that...(as cited in Andrews, 2007)

## QUOTATIONS

### Direct quotations of sources

Direct quotations allow you to acknowledge a source within your text by providing a reference to exactly where in that source you found the information. The reader can then follow up on the complete reference in the Reference List page at the end of your paper.

### Short direct quotations

Quotations of less than 40 words should be incorporated in the text and enclosed with double quotation marks. Provide the author, publication year and a page number.

She stated, "The 'placebo effect,' ...disappeared when behaviors were studied in this manner" (Miele, 1993, p. 276), but he did not clarify which behaviors were studied.

Miele (1993) found that "the 'placebo effect,' which had been verified in previous studies, disappeared when [only the first group's] behaviors were studied in this manner" (p. 276).

### Long direct quotations

When making a quotation of more than 40 words, use a free-standing "block quotation" on a new line, indented five spaces and omit quotation marks.

Miele (1993) found the following:

The "placebo effect," which had been verified in previous studies, disappeared when behaviors were studied in this manner. Furthermore, the behaviors were never exhibited, even when real [sic] drugs were administered. Earlier studies were clearly premature in attributing the results to a placebo effect. (p. 276)

Further examples and explanations are available in Section 6.03 of the *Publication Manual*.

## REFERENCE LIST - OVERVIEW

The alphabetical list of references that appears at the end of your paper contains more information about all of the sources you have used allowing readers to refer to them, as needed. The main characteristics are:

The list of references must be on a new page at the end of your text

The word References should be centered at the top of the page

Entries are arranged alphabetically by the author's last name or by the title if there is no author

Titles of larger works (i.e. books, journals, encyclopedias) are italicized

Entries are double-spaced (for the purposes of this handout, single-spacing is used)

For each entry, the first line is typed flush with the left margin. Additional lines are indented as a group a few spaces to the right of the left margin (hanging indent)

Below are some examples of the most common types of sources including online sources (Web and databases).

## BOOKS

### Book with one author

Bernstein, T. M. (1965). *The careful writer: A modern guide to English usage* (2nd ed.). New York, NY: Atheneum.

### Electronic book

Replace place and publisher information with the DOI.

Anderson, C.A., Gentile, D.A., & Buckley, K.E. (2007). *Violent video game effects on children and adolescents: Theory, research and public policy*.

doi:10.1093/acprof:oso/9780195309836.001.0001

### Work with two authors

Beck, C. A. J., & Sales, B. D. (2001). *Family mediation: Facts, myths, and future prospects*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

### Two or more works by the same author

Arrange by the year of publication, the earliest first.

Postman, N. (1979). *Teaching as a conserving activity*. New York, NY: Delacorte Press.

Postman, N. (1985). *Amusing ourselves to death: Public discourse in the age of show business*. New York, NY: Viking.

If works by the same author are published in the same year, arrange alphabetically by title and add a letter after the year as indicated below.

McLuhan, M. (1970a). *Culture is our business*. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill.

McLuhan, M. (1970b). *From cliché to archetype*. New York, NY: Viking Press.

### **Book by a corporate author**

Associations, corporations, agencies, government departments and organizations are considered authors when there is no single author

American Psychological Association. (1972). *Ethical standards of psychologists*.

Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

## **ANTHOLOGIES, COURSEPACKS, & ENCYCLOPEDIAS**

### **Anthology or compilation**

Gibbs, J. T., & Huang, L. N. (Eds.). (1991). *Children of color: Psychological interventions with minority youth*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.

### **Work in an anthology or an essay in a book**

Bjork, R. A. (1989). Retrieval inhibition as an adaptive mechanism in human memory. In H. L. Roediger III, & F. I. M. Craik (Eds.), *Varieties of memory & consciousness* (pp. 309-330). Hillsdale, NJ: Erlbaum.

### **Work in a coursepack**

Goleman, D. (2009). What makes a leader? In D. Demers (Ed.), *AHSC 230: Interpersonal communication and relationships* (pp. 47-56). Montreal, Canada: Concordia University Bookstore. (Reprinted from *Harvard Business Review*, 76(6), pp.93-102, 1998).

### **Article in a reference book or an entry in an encyclopedia**

If the article/entry is signed, include the author's name; if unsigned, begin with the title of the entry

Guignon, C. B. (1998). Existentialism. In E. Craig (Ed.), *Routledge encyclopedia of philosophy* (Vol. 3, pp. 493-502). London, England: Routledge.

## ARTICLES

### Article in a journal - for electronic articles retrieved online, see below

Mellers, B. A. (2000). Choice and the relative pleasure of consequences. *Psychological Bulletin*, 126, 910-924.

**Note:** List only the volume number if the periodical uses continuous pagination throughout a particular volume. If each issue begins with page 1, then list the issue number as well.

Klimoski, R., & Palmer, S. (1993). The ADA and the hiring process in organizations. *Consulting Psychology Journal: Practice and Research*, 45(2), 10-36.

### Article in a newspaper or magazine

Semenak, S. (1995, December 28). Feeling right at home: Government residence eschews traditional rules. *Montreal Gazette*, p. A4.

Driedger, S. D. (1998, April 20). After divorce. *Maclean's*, 111(16), 38-43.

### Article from an electronic source

Provide the same information as you would for a printed journal article and add a retrieval statement that will identify the source of this information.

In general, it is not necessary to include database information (APA, 2010, p. 192).

You can identify your source by including **ONE** of the following:

#### 1. **DOI (digital object identifier)**

A DOI is an alphanumeric string used to identify journal articles and other documents published electronically. Always include the DOI when it is available instead of the URL or the database name. It is often found with the bibliographic information, such as the journal title and volume. It may also be included at the top or bottom of the first page of the article. Try searching for the DOI of an article at [CrossRef.org](http://CrossRef.org)

Zhao, S., Grasmuck, S., & Martin, J. (2008). Identity construction on Facebook: Digital empowerment in anchored relationships. *Computers in Human Behavior*, 24(5), 1816-1836. doi:10.1016/j.chb.2008.02.012

More information on [\*\*how to find a DOI and create permanent links to online articles\*\*](#) is available.

## 2. URL for an online periodical

If there is no DOI for an article found in an online periodical, include the URL for the journal home page.

Cooper, A., & Humphreys, K. (2008). The uncertainty is killing me: Self-triage decision making and information availability. *E-Journal of Applied Psychology*, 4(1). Retrieved from <http://ojs.lib.swin.edu.au/index.php/ejap/>

## MULTIMEDIA

### Television or radio program

MacIntyre, L. (Reporter). (2002, January 23). Scandal of the Century [Television series episode]. In H. Cashore (Producer), *The fifth estate*. Toronto, Canada: Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

### Film, videorecording or DVD

Kubrick, S. (Director). (1980). *The Shining* [Motion picture]. United States: Warner Brothers.

### Online Lecture Notes and Presentation Slides (such as Moodle)

Cress, C. M. (2009). *Curricular strategies for student success and engaged learning* [PowerPoint slides]. Retrieved from

**[http://www.vtcampuscompact.org/2009/TCL\\_post/presenter\\_powerpoints/Christine%20Cress%20-%20Curricular%20Strategies.ppt](http://www.vtcampuscompact.org/2009/TCL_post/presenter_powerpoints/Christine%20Cress%20-%20Curricular%20Strategies.ppt)**

## WEB PAGES

**NOTE:** For current information about electronic sources, please refer to the **Purdue University Online Writing Lab**

### Web pages & non-periodical documents on the Internet

Include the author, title of the document, and if available, always include the date the material was updated or posted online. If the page may be changed or moved, include the date of retrieval. Include the URL of the document cited.

If there is no author, place the title in the author position.

If there is no date, replace the date with (n.d.) to signify that there is no date for the material.

Add a description of the source in square brackets after the title, if this is necessary to clarify the type of source e.g. [Bibliography] [PowerPoint slides] [Multimedia presentation]

Library and Archives Canada. (2008). *Celebrating women's achievements: Women artists in Canada*. Retrieved from

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/women/002026-500-e.html>

If the source material is likely to change over time (e.g. wikis), include the retrieval date.

Geography of Canada. (2009, September 29). In *Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*.

Retrieved September 30, 2009, from

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography\\_of\\_Canada](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography_of_Canada)

Further examples and explanations are available in sections 6.22-6.26 (basic rules), sections 6.31-6.32 (electronic sources) and chapter 7 (examples and more information) of the **Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association**.

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