

APA Citation Style: Print, Media, and Online Sources

Wells College Long Library
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APA (American Psychological Association) is most commonly used to cite sources within the social sciences. The following guide was developed to assist students with the American Psychological Association (APA) documentation style. For more extensive rules and examples of the APA style, consult the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 7th ed.* (R 808 A51p 2020) or visit <https://apastyle.apa.org/>

Guidelines for formatting IN-TEXT citations:

In-text citations should be used to direct the reader to the source listed in your reference page. The general format of an in-text citation is the author's surname and the year of publication, placed in parenthesis. Do not include suffixes and make sure that the publication year matches the publication year in the reference list.

- The typical format for an in-text citation is the author's surname and year of publication.
- The in-text citation is placed in a parenthesis, with a comma separating the two elements.
- If the citation is at the end of a sentence, place it before the end punctuation.

Example:

Building a Search History can be an effective way to use a database (Bell, 2012).

- When the author's name is provided in the text, only the publication year is needed in the in-text citation.

Example:

Smith has expressed this concern (2019).

- If the source has two authors, include both the surnames of both authors in the in-text citation, separated by an ampersand.
- If the source has three or more authors, only list the first author's surname, followed by "et al."

Example:

Web 2.0 tools can be effectively used to aid in education and teaching (Berger & Trexler, 2010).

Student use of ProQuest RefWorks can help improve information literacy on campus (Roseler et al., 2019).

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When the author of a source is an organization, use the organization's full name in the first citation, indicating the proper abbreviation in the citation in parenthesis. Use the abbreviation in subsequent citations. 	<p>Example:</p> <p>First citation: (National Institute of Mental Health [NIMH], 2019)</p> <p>Subsequent citations: (NIMH, 2019)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If providing the author's last name does not provide sufficient information to pinpoint the source in the reference list (ex. multiple authors with the same last name or multiple works by the same author in the same year), provide enough information to identify the individual source. For works by the same author, add a lower case letter after the year. For works by authors with the same name, add the first letter of the author's first name before the last name. 	<p>Example:</p> <p>(J. Malcolm, 2000)</p> <p>(Smith et al., 2017a)</p> <p>(Smith et al., 2017b)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When directly quoting from a source, you should include a page number. Your citation will be placed outside of the quotation marks, but before the period ending the sentence. If the sentences ends with a punctuation mark other than a period, include that punctuation within the quotation marks, followed by your citation and a period. 	<p>Example:</p> <p>"It is helpful for students to be aware of the difference between search and discovery" (Berger & Trexler, 2010, p. 26).</p> <p>"What are the essential twenty-first century skills?" (Berger & Trexler, 2010, p. 12).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When directly quoting a print source that does not have page numbers (such as a website) include the heading or section name, paragraph number, or a combination of the two. 	<p>Example:</p> <p>"A student team is responsible for ringing the bells in Main Building's tower to announce dinner every night, on the arrival of the first snowflakes, and for other special events" (Wells College, 2020, Bells section).</p> <p>"The Men's Even/Odd weekend was introduced in 2008. Held in the spring semester, the events begin with a dance-off in the Dining Hall" (Wells College, 2020, Odd/Even section, para. 2).</p>

Guidelines for formatting a REFERENCE LIST page:

- Start the reference list on a new page, continuing the page numbers from the body of the paper.
- Center the title of the page (References) an inch from the top of the paper.
- Align the start of each entry with the left margin. Indent any subsequent lines one-half inch (or five spaces).
- Double-space the list within and between entries.
- Arrange entries in alphabetical order by author’s last names.
- Capitalize only the first word of the title, the first word of the subtitle, proper nouns, and nouns followed by numerals or letters.

Citations for BOOKS:

Books

- Indicate the author using the last name and first initial, separated by a comma. If there is more than one author, but less than 21, list all authors with their names separated by a comma and an ampersand before the last author. If there are 21 or more authors, list the first 19 authors, followed by an ellipsis and the last author.
- For the publication date, use the year provided on the copyright page of the book.
- Provide the title in italics, capitalizing only the first word of the title, first word of the subtitle, proper nouns, or nouns followed by numerals or letters.
- Finally, provide the name of the publisher at the end of the citation.

Format:

Lastname, F. (publication year). *Title*.
Publisher.

Example:

Smith, H. (2020). *Book on psychology*. Aurora Press.
Smith, H. & Wells, H. (2019). *Glen Park*. Aurora Press.

<p>Chapter in an edited book</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide the name of the author of the chapter, inverted with only the first initial of the first name provided. • The publication year is provided in parenthesis. • Provide the title of the chapter, capitalizing only the first letter, the first letter of the subtitle, proper nouns, and any word preceding numerals. • Indicate the book the chapter is in using “In” followed by the name of the editor, in the same format as you would provide an author, not inverted, in italics and with the same capitalization pattern as the title of the chapter, and then the page range of the chapter in parenthesis. • Finally, provide the name of the publisher. 	<p>Format:</p> <p>Author, A. (pub year). Title of chapter. In E. Editor (Ed.), <i>Title of Book</i> (pp.x-x). Publisher.</p> <p>Example:</p> <p>Wells, H. (2019). Education in Aurora. In H. Smith (Ed.), <i>Wells College</i> (pp. 2-24). Aurora Press.</p> <p>Long, L. (1968). Libraries are cool. In F. Cleveland (Ed.), <i>Libraries at Wells College</i> (pp. 42-68). Aurora Press.</p>
<p>Book with a DOI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If an eBook is used, and the eBook as a DOI, provide the DOI at the end of the normal citation. 	<p>Example:</p> <p>Wells, H. (2019). Education in Aurora. In H. Smith (Ed.), <i>Wells College</i> (pp. 2-24). Aurora Press. https://doi.org/10.1037/x</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Citations for PERIODICALS:</p>	
<p>Article in a Scholarly Journal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Journal citations begin with the author’s last name, inverted. The publication date is provided in parenthesis, followed by the title of the journal article. The title of the journal is italicized, as is the volume number. Place the issue number after the volume number in parenthesis, with no space separating the two. The page range is listed at the end. 	<p>Format:</p> <p>Author, A. (pub date). Title of article. <i>Title of journal</i>, vol(issue), pp. x-x.</p> <p>Example:</p> <p>VanBunge, W. (2017). Spinoza’s life: 1677-1802. <i>Journal of the History of Ideas</i>, 78 (2), pp. 211-231.</p>

<p>Journal Article with a DOI or URL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place the DOI or URL at the end of your citation, following the page numbers. If your article was found online but outside of a library database, and does not have a DOI, be sure to include the article's URL. If your article was found in a database and does not have a DOI, it is not necessary to provide the URL. 	<p>Format:</p> <p>Author, A. (pub date). Title of article. <i>Title of Journal</i>, vol(issue), pp.x-x. DOI/URL.</p> <p>Example:</p> <p>Detmering, R, McClellan, S., & Willenborg, A. (2019). A Seat at the able: Information literacy assessment and professional legitimacy. <i>College & Research Libraries</i>, 80(5), 720-737. https://doi.org/10.5860/crl.80.5.720</p>
<p>Journal Article with more than 1 author</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the article has between 2 and 20 authors, list all of the authors, separated by a comma with an ampersand before the last author's name. If the article has 21 or more authors, list the first 19 authors, followed by an ellipsis and the last author's name. 	<p>Format:</p> <p>Author, A., Author, B., & Author, C. (pub date). Title of article. <i>Title of Journal</i>, vol(issue), pp.x-x. DOI/URL.</p> <p>Author, A., Author, B., Author, C., Author, D., Author, E., Author, F., Author, G., Author, H., Author, I., Author, J., Author, K., Author, L., Author, M., Author, N., Author, O., Author, P., Author, Q., Author, R., Author, S., ... Author, Z. (pub date). Title of article. <i>Title of Journal</i>, vol(issue), pp.x-x. DOI/URL.</p>
<p>Journal Article with an Article Number</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some articles will have an article number instead of page numbers. Use the article number in place of the page numbers, with the word "Article" before the number. 	<p>Format:</p> <p>Author, A. (pub date). Title of article. <i>Title of Journal</i>, vol(issue), Article xxx. DOI/URL.</p>
<p>Advanced Publication Article</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If an article is published online prior to its formal publication in the journal, it will not have a volume and issue number. In the place of these items, use "advanced online publication." Separate this from the journal with a period and capitalize "Advanced". 	<p>Format</p> <p>Author, A. (pub date). Title of article. <i>Title of Journal</i>. Advanced online publication. DOI/URL.</p>

<p>Newspaper Article</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newspaper articles are very similar to journal articles, but provide the full date of publication and a section/column if there are no page numbers. 	<p>Format:</p> <p>Author, A. (year, month day). Title of article. <i>Title of Newspaper</i>. URL.</p>
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Citations for ONLINE MEDIA:

<p>Website with a group author</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide the name of the group who published the page as the author, followed by the publication date (as specific as possible). The title of the webpage is provided in italics, followed by the name of the website and the URL. • Omit the Site Name if it is the same as the name of the author. 	<p>Format:</p> <p>Name of Author Group. (year, month day). <i>Title of webpage</i>. Site Name. URL.</p> <p>Example.</p> <p>Wells College. (2020). <i>Traditions</i>. https://www.wells.edu/student-life/traditions.</p>
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<p>Website with an individual author</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Websites with an individual author are the same as a website with a group author, except the author's name is provided at the start of the citation, inverted. 	<p>Format:</p> <p>Author, A. (year, month day). <i>Title of webpage</i>. Site Name. URL.</p>
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<p>Retrieval Dates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include a retrieval date with your citation if the content of the website is likely to change. • Retrieval dates will go just prior to the URL, with a "Retrieved" before the date. 	<p>Format:</p> <p>Author, A. (year, month day). <i>Title of webpage</i>. Site Name. Retrieved month day, year, from URL.</p>
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For additional source types or clarification, please see the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 7th ed.*, which is located in the Ready Reference collection at the circulation desk. You can also ask a librarian or Writing Center tutor for assistance.