



APA Quick Guide

For more information, see the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 5th ed. (2001).

The American Psychological Association (APA) has established a style for presenting research and citing sources widely used in the social sciences, natural sciences, and health professions. APA citation style enables you to indicate the sources of your work without listing publication information every time you cite a source. Instead, such details are saved for a **reference list** at the end of your paper. References to those sources take the form of **parenthetical citations** in the body of your paper.

Reference List

At the end of your paper include a list of sources titled “References,” alphabetized according to the last name of the first author for each source. Below is the basic format for an entry. Punctuate each entry as indicated.

Author/s (Date of Publication). *Title*. Publication Information.

Different kinds of sources require particular publication information and punctuation. Notice that authors’ first names are reduced to initials and that in titles of books and articles only proper nouns and the first word of a title or subtitle are capitalized. Titles of journals are capitalized as usual.

Books

if the book has an editor

(Edition). City of Publication: Publisher.

Roy, C. (Ed.). (1964). *Introduction to nursing: A helping art* (2nd ed.). New York: Springer.

Articles from a Print Journal

Volume(Issue), Page Range.

Charlow, A. (2002). no italics or quotation marks Race, poverty, and neglect. italics for journal or book title *William Mitchell Law Review*, 28(2), 763–790.

Articles from an Online Database

El Naschie, M., & Saladin, M. (2006). Nanotechnology for the developing world. *Chaos, solitons & fractals*, 30(4), 769–773. Retrieved August 18, 2006, from Academic Search Premier database.

In-Text Citations

Cite a source **whenever you derive information from it**—whether or not you quote it directly. When you put information from a source in your own words or discuss it in general, include only the last name of the author(s) and the date of the source. You may choose to include the author’s name either in the body of your sentence or in parentheses at the end.

Charlow (2002) argues that children should not be taken from their families simply because their parents are poor.

Poverty alone is not a sufficient reason to take children from their families (Charlow, 2002).

When you quote a source directly or refer to specific information, also indicate the page number in parentheses at the end of the sentence. Notice that the final period goes after the parentheses.

According to Charlow (2002), “Children should not be removed from their parents solely because of their income” (p. 770).

More recent articles contend that “children should not be removed from their parents solely because of their income” (Charlow, 2002, p. 770).

Block Quotes

Use block quotes if the quotation is longer than three lines. You must use your own sentence to lead into the quote, then indent the entire quote the equivalent of ten spaces from both margins.

Overman et al. (2006) discuss the parallels between personal moral dilemmas and gambling:

In both instances, the participant chooses between alternatives with no precisely correct answer. Both tasks rely on a combination of emotional feeling of “rightness” plus a degree of cognitive, rational analyses. Both require recall of past conflicts, resolutions, and outcomes. (p. 824)

Multiple Authors

Many articles in the sciences are written by teams of researchers. Include up to six authors in a reference entry, last names first, and use an ampersand (&) before the last name.

Coleman, T., Culkin, C., & Sierka, D. (2006). Kidney transplants in HIV patients? *RN*, 69(1), 33–38.

In the body of your paper, name all of the authors in a multiple-author source on the first citation. In later citations, use just the name of the first author followed by *et al.*:

Researchers have recently reevaluated the risks associated with organ transplants in people with HIV (e.g., Coleman, Culkin & Sierka, 2006). [...] HIV infection can lead to kidney failure (Coleman et al., 2006).

When listing works with more than six authors in the references, include only the first five names, followed by *et al.*, a Latin abbreviation for “and others.”

Lin, J., Hanten, W. P., Olson, S. L., Roddey, T. S., Soto-quijano, D. A., Lim, H. K., et al. (2006). Shoulder dysfunction assessment: Self-report and impaired scapular movements. *Physical Therapy*, 86(8), 1065–1074.

Within the text, works with more than six authors can be cited by the first author’s name and *et al.* in every citation, including the first:

Lin et al. (2006) “used a skin-based approach that involved digitized bony landmarks and magnetic tracking sensors” to measure shoulder movement (p. 1073).

Additional Resources

Guides to APA Style

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 5th ed. (2001)
www.apastyle.org
owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_apa.html

Electronic Citation Generators

RefWorks Write-N-Cite, included in campus versions of Microsoft Word.
<http://citationmachine.net>