The American Psychological Association (APA) style guide is often used by instructors in the social and medical sciences. Although APA is vague about how exactly to format the references page for a student paper, these general guidelines have been adapted from the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 5th edition. To avoid plagiarism, cite all sources within the paper using parenthetical references and make sure to have an accurate reference list. The instructions for citing specific types of resources are listed in the following pages along with examples. Always verify this citation format with your instructor.

Reference List

All works that are used in the paper and identified by a parenthetical reference require a listing in the References page so that the reader can verify or locate the original source. Follow the basic format outlined below to create your References page:

- **Page Format:** Start your references page on a new page at the end of your paper, number it consecutively, and use the same font style and size as the rest of the paper. Center the title References one inch from the top of the page and double-space between the title and the first entry.
- **Entries:** Single space each reference and include a double space between references. Arrange entries alphabetically. Begin each entry flush with the left margin. Indent all following lines five spaces. Do not number the entries.

Parts of a Citation

- **Authors:** Most sources will include an author. In APA style authors are formatted as follows:
  - **1 author:** Smith, J.
  - **2 authors:** Smith, J., & Jones, M.
  - **3 authors:** Smith, J., Jones, M., & Johnson, R.
  - **4 authors:** Smith, J., Jones, M., Johnson, R., & Miller, M.
  - **5 authors:** Smith, J., Jones, M., Johnson, R., Miller, M., & Lopez, D. R.
  - **6 authors:** Smith, J., Jones, M., Johnson, R., Miller, M., Lopez, D. R., & Brown, N.
  - **7 or more authors:** Smith, J., Jones, M., Johnson, R., Miller, M., Lopez, D. R., Brown, N., et al.
- **Dates:** Enclose the date (year first) in parenthesis after the author’s name, follow with a period.
  - **Year only:** (2007)
  - **Complete date:** (2007, September 12)
  - **Month/Year:** (2007, September)
  - **Two Months:** (2007, September/October)
- **Titles:** Titles come after the date. Use the formats below for different types of titles
  - **Titles of Books:** Italicize the title, but do not capitalize any words except the first word, proper nouns and the first word of a subtitle. Example: *Math for meds: Dosages and solutions*
  - **Title of articles, poems, short stories or other short works:** Same capitalization rules as for book titles, but do not italicize. Example: Aging in place: A new model
  - **Title of periodicals:** Italicize the title and capitalize major words. Example: *Journal of Marriage and the Family*
- **Publication Information:** Give complete place of publication and the publisher. Example: Novi, MI: Gale
- **Electronic Access Information:** For online resources add a retrieval statement that includes the date of access, the name of the database, or the URL of the website. Example: Retrieved June 12, 2003 from JSTOR database or Retrieved May 5, 2001 from http://www.cdc.gov/nip/flu/Public.htm
Examples:

**Basic Print Examples:**

Author’s last name, First initial. (year of publication). *Title of book*. City of publication, state or country: Publisher.

Author’s last name, First initial. (date of publication). Title of periodical article. *Title of the periodical, volume number*, page number(s).

**Basic Database Examples:**


**Book**


**Magazine Article**


**Journal Article (continuous page numbering)**


**Journal Article (begins each issue on page one)**

Add the issue number in parentheses directly after the volume number. In the example below ‘24(3)’ signifies volume 24, issue 3.


**Newspaper Article**


**Book from database**


**Magazine Article from database**

Journal article from database

Newspaper article from database

Citing an online book (Not from a library database)

Citing a chapter from an online book (For books from the netLibrary and xreferplus databases, see the handout Citing Subscription Databases APA Style.)
To cite a chapter from an online book, cite the author of the chapter, followed by “In” and the editor’s name and/or the title of the book. If no page numbers are available, use the section or chapter number.


Citing articles from an online journal or magazine based on a print source

Citing an article from the online version of a print newspaper

Citing an entire multi-page document created by a private organization

Citing a chapter or section of a multi-page document
When citing a named or numbered part of a document, give the name or number and a direct URL if available.
Other Citations for Print & Miscellaneous Resources

Books, two to six authors

Books with one or more editors as the author

An article or chapter in an edited book

Excerpt from a book reprinted in another book

Excerpt from a periodical article reprinted in a reference book

Periodical article reprinted in a reference book


Book reviews

If the book review is untitled, use the material in brackets as the title and retain the brackets to show that the material is not the title of the review.


Encyclopedia and dictionary entries

Pamphlets

More Magazine examples


Magazine Articles (no author)

More Newspaper articles
When citing newspapers alphabetize works with no author by the first significant word in the title. Precede page numbers for newspaper articles with “p.” or “pp.”


When citing articles that are printed on more than one page, list all the page numbers preceded by “pp.”


When citing a letter to the editor, add the descriptive label ‘Letter to the editor’ (enclosed in square brackets) after the title of the letter.


Interviews
Do not cite personal communications in the reference list. These are cited only in the body of the paper. Give the initials as well as the surname of the communicator and provide as exact a date as possible. Personal communications include interviews, telephone communications, letters, memos, and some electronic communications.

D. English (personal communication, April 24, 2000).

Films
- Give the name and the function, in parentheses, of the originator or primary contributor.
- Specify the medium, in brackets, immediately after the title. Some examples of non-print media include film, videotape, audiotape, slides and charts.
- Give the location and name of the distributor. For small, little-known companies, you may provide the complete address.

Government reports

ERIC Document

More Examples of Full Text and Abstracts from Subscription Databases

Academic Search Complete (EBSCOhost)

CINAHL Plus with Full Text (EBSCOhost)


Clinical Pharmacology (EBSCOhost)

Cochrane Library (Wiley Interscience)

CQ Researcher (CQ Library)

Digital Collection (online book by one author and chapter in edited book)

Education Research Complete (EBSCOHost)


Health & Wellness Resource Center (Gale)


Health Source Nursing Academic Edition (EBSCOhost)

Health Source Nursing Consumer Edition (EBSCOhost)

JSTOR

MEDLINE with Full-Text (EBSCOHost)


netLibrary (online book by one author and chapter in edited book)
NewsBank America's Newspapers (Newsbank)

Nursing Resource Center (Gale)


OmniFile Full Text Mega (Wilson Web)

Oxford Reference Online Premium (Oxford University Press)


Physician’s Desk Reference (Thomson Micromedex)

PsycArticles (EBSCOhost)

Science Resource Center (Gale)
More Internet Resource Examples

Citing an article from a reference database


Citing a government site
For government publications, the author is the office that produced the information. If it is not well known, also include the higher office under which it falls. The higher office would come first in the citation.


Citing articles from an Internet-only periodical

Citing e-mail communications
E-mail communications from individuals should be cited as personal communications, (*APA Manual 5th ed.*, p. 214). Cite an e-mail in the text of the manuscript. Do not include it in the reference list.


Parenthetical Documentation
Parenthetical documentation is supplemental to the references list, and should be included in the text where you use a particular source. Parenthetical references should briefly identify the source without repeating the full information from the references list. In general, a parenthetical reference includes an author’s last name and the page number of the reference. Below are some other guidelines. Refer to pages 207-214 of the *APA Publications Manual, 5th edition*, for further assistance.

- Use a comma between the author’s name and the year of publication when citing the entire source.
- When citing a specific part of a source, follow the year of publication with a comma, the abbreviation for the part, such as p. or chap., and the enumeration.
- If the source uses paragraph numbers, as is the case with some electronic journals, use the abbreviation par. or pars., or the symbol ¶.
- When no author is listed, use the first few words (not including initial articles) in the title of the source (as it appears in your references list).
Citing an entire print or non-print work
If you are citing an entire work – whether a book, article, film, or web site – it is usually preferable to mention it in the text rather than as parenthetical documentation. Use the name of the person (author, editor, director, etc.) that begins the entry in your references list. Add the date of publication.
- **Books**: As Ann Waldron (1998) points out, childhood influences are a theme in Welty’s work.
- **Journal Articles**: Karen Marek (2000) argues that the elderly often fare better when kept in familiar surroundings.

Citing part of a work
- **Books**: Welty is known for her frequent use of metaphor when describing her early childhood experiences (Waldron, 1998, p. 38).
- **Journal Articles**: The fate of MGM may rest largely on the shoulders of its new CEO, whose focus will be to reach a broader market with lower-budget films (Roberts, 2000, par. 3).

Citing a work listed by title
- **Book (or Pamphlet)**: While second-hand smoke continues to be a major health hazard, other sources of pollution must not be discounted (*Reducing*, 2001, p. 2).
- **Journal Article**: A career in professional sports is the goal of most college athletes (“Seeing is Believing,” p. 37).
- **Electronic Sources**: Although his health continued to be precarious, Vincent often drove himself to paint for long stretches, foregoing food and sleep (“Gogh,” 2003, ¶13).

Citing a work listed by corporate author
In the first text citation, use the full name of the group, with an abbreviation following in brackets. Use the abbreviation in subsequent entries.
- Textbooks challenges have increased more than 300% over the last five years (People for the American Way [PAW], 2002, p. 6).

Parenthetical Documentation
Parenthetical documentation is supplemental to the references list, and should be included in the text where you use a particular source. Parenthetical references should briefly identify the source without repeating the full information from the references list. In general, a parenthetical reference includes an author’s last name and the page number of the reference. Below are some other guidelines. Refer to pages 207-214 of the APA Publications Manual, 5th edition, for further assistance.

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- When citing a specific part of a source, follow the year of publication with a comma, the abbreviation for the part, such as p. or chap., and the enumeration.
- If the source uses paragraph numbers, as is the case with some electronic journals, use the abbreviation par. or pars., or the symbol ¶.
- When no author is listed, use the first few words (not including initial articles) in the title of the source (as it appears in your references list).

Citing an entire print or non-print work
If you are citing an entire work – whether a book, article, film, or web site – it is usually preferable to mention it in the text rather than as parenthetical documentation. Use the name of the person (author, editor, director, etc.) that begins the entry in your references list. Add the date of publication.
- **Books**: As Ann Waldron (1998) points out, childhood influences are a theme in Welty’s work.
- **Journal Articles**: Karen Marek (2000) argues that the elderly often do better in familiar surroundings.
Citing part of a work

- **Books:** Welty uses metaphors often when describing her early experiences (Waldron, 1998, p. 38).
- **Journal Articles:** The fate of MGM may rest largely on the shoulders of its new CEO, whose focus will be to reach a broader market with lower-budget films (Roberts, 2000, par. 3).

Citing a work listed by title

- **Book (or Pamphlet):** Many sources of pollution exist (Reducing, 2001, p. 2).
- **Journal Article:** A career in sports is the goal of most college athletes (“Seeing is Believing,” p. 37).
- **Electronic Sources:** Although his health continued to be precarious, Vincent often drove himself to paint for long stretches, foregoing food and sleep (“Gogh,” 2003, ¶13).

Citing a work listed by corporate author

In the first text citation, use the full name of the group, with an abbreviation (for subsequent entries) in brackets.

- **First Entry:** Textbook challenges have increased 300% in the last five years (People for the American Way [PAW], 2002, p. 6).
- **Subsequent Entries:** Statistics show that in 1998, fifty-two school districts resorted to court orders to remove textbooks from classrooms (PAW, 2002, p. 58).

Citing a work with multiple authors

- **2 or more authors** – name both authors each time work is cited: Air quality is a key factor in predicting the severity of allergies during heavy exercise (Klien & Ziering, 1999, p. 27).
- **3 to 5 authors** – name all authors in first entry and in subsequent entries use first author followed by “et al.”:
  - **First Entry:** Allergies can be debilitating (Jones, Ford, Fry, & Mills, 2006, p. 55).
  - **Subsequent Entries:** Allergies can be deadly (Jones et al., 2006, p. 56).
- **6 or more authors** – name only the first author followed by “et al.”: Air quality is important in preventing allergies (Smith et al., 2005, p. 66)