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APA-style Citation Guide

This 'quick-guide' provides examples of how to cite commonly-used materials in APA-style. For each material type, it provides the in-text citation and reference list citation format. For more information about writing and citation of other materials, refer to the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (2010). The Publication Manual is available at Axinn Library, Call Number REFDESK BF76.7 P83 2010.

APA also provides a "Frequently Asked Questions" page which addresses many questions about citing new media <http://www.apastyle.org/learn/faqs/index.aspx>

There are a number of good webguides to APA-style, one of which is APA-Style Essentials at Vanguard University (Google "APA-Style Essentials")

(information and some samples abstracted and adapted from the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th ed. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association, 2010)

Some general notes –

- **AUTHORS -**
 - *Only surname is spelled out; use initials for first and middle names*
 - *author(s) are treated the same regardless of material type (article, book, etc)*
- **INDENTATION -**
 - *Second and subsequent lines of citation are indented*
 - *(hint: do not manually create indents. Complete reference list, then format paragraph to "hanging" and indents will be created)*
- **ITALICIZATION -**
 - *Titles of books and journals (major elements) are italicized*
 - *Titles of chapters and articles (minor elements) are not italicized*
- **CAPITALIZATION -**
 - *Only first letter of title, first letter after colon, and proper nouns are capitalized for articles, chapters, and books.*
 - *All major words in journal titles are capitalized*
 -
- *Articles NEVER have publishers info (i.e., place: publisher)*
- *Ampersands (&) in reference list and in-text parentheses; "and" in text*

Book – one author

Reference List

McInnis, R. G. (1982). Research guide for psychology. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press.

In-text citation

(McInnis, 1982) -- or -- McInnis (1982) found ...

Book – two authors

Reference List

Vogler, R. E., & Bartz, W. R. (1982). The better way to drink: Moderation and control of problem drinking. Oakland, CA: Simon & Schuster.

In-text citation

(Vogler & Bartz, 1982) -- or -- Vogler and Bartz (1982) found...

Book – more than two authors

Reference List

Smith, L., Jones, K. C., & Ely, L. (2002). The importance of knowledge of APA-style citation style. New York: Ideas Press.

In-text citation

(Smith, Jones, & Ely, 2002) – or -- Smith, Jones, and Ely (2002) found...

after first cite, use (Smith, et al., 2002) – or – Smith, et al. (2002)...

Edited Book

Reference List

Editor(s) same as Authors for books. (Eds.). (1982). Children of color: Psychological interventions with minority youth. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

Dictionary or Encyclopedia

Reference List

Editor(s) same as Authors for books. (Ed.). (1980). The New Grove dictionary of music and musicians (6th ed., Vols. 1-20). London: Macmillan.

Book – no author or editor

Reference List

Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary (10th ed.). (1993). Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster.

In-text citation (treat first several words of title as the author)

(Merriam-Webster, 1993) -- or -- Merriam-Webster (1993) defines ...

Book Chapter

Reference List

O'Neil, J. M., & Egan, J. (1992). Men's and women's gender role journeys: Metaphor for healing, transition, and transformation. In B. R. Wainrib (Ed.), Gender issues across the life cycle (pp. 107-123). New York: Springer.

In-text citation

(O'Neil & Egan, 1992) -- or -- O'Neil and Egan (1992) stated...

Journal Article

Reference List

Author(s) same as book author(s). (2005). Preferred number of sexual partners: Tails of distributions and tales of mating systems. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 26(3), 271-278.

Popular Magazine Article

Reference List

Author(s) same as book authors. (1990, April 9). Beyond the melting pot. *Time*, 135, 28-31.

Newspaper Article

Reference List

Author(s) same as book authors. (1993, September 30). Obesity affects economic, social status. *The Washington Post*, p. A12.

Electronic Resources

Due to the variety of electronic items that can be cited, including articles, books, dissertations, curriculum materials, raw data, gray literature, powerpoint presentations, podcasts, weblog posts, videos, etc., there isn't enough space to cover citation of these items in this guide.

Rules for citing electronic versions of the commonly cited materials covered in this guide can be found on pp. 187-192 of the APA Manual found at the Reference Desk.

Government Documents

Because government documents vary so much in form and substance, the site or document from which they are accessed usually advise on the correct citation at the bottom of the document.

You can modify this information to fit within APA; for example, if they list the date last, move the date into the proper APA position.

Questions? Comments?

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