Quick Reference for APA Citations (American Psychological Association)

The following are examples of the more common citations. When in doubt your final word is the APA Publication Manual, 6th edition, the APA official website (http://www.apastyle.org/) and your professor.

Print copies of the APA Style Manual, 6th edition, and a book for citing graphs and tables in APA format are available in the Research & Writing Studio on the 2nd floor of Haggard.

In Text Citations (6.11 to 6.21, pp. 174-179)

APA style uses the author-date in text method of citation. The generic format for an in text citation is (last name of the author, the year of publication). Page numbers should always be included for direct quotations though page numbers are not required when paraphrasing.

**One author.** A single gene controls the restriction of the compound to the leaves and stems (Barham, 1953). OR According to Barham (1953), a single gene controls the restriction of the compound to the leaves and stems.

**Two authors.** Cite both names every time: (6.12, p. 175) Brabant and Mooney (1986) have used the comic strip to examine evidence of sex role stereotyping. OR The comic strip has been used to examine evidence of sex role stereotyping (Brabant & Mooney, 1986).

**Three, four, or five authors.** List every author the first time. After that, cite only the last name of the first author followed by "et al."

**Example of a first citation.** Cramer, Jackson, Smith, and Jones (1992) found evidence that …

**For subsequent citations.** Cramer et al. (1992) found evidence that

**Six or more authors.** Cite only the surname of the first author followed by "et al."

Work Discussed in a Secondary Source (6.17, p. 178)

It is always best to cite an original source. Ask for assistance in the Research & Writing Studio on Haggard 2, when you have difficulty locating the original. When it is absolutely necessary to cite a secondary source, as found in section 6.17 of the APA Manual, name the original source and provide a citation for the secondary source.

**Example in text citation**

Kirscht and Joseph’s review (as cited in Thompson, Geher, Stevens, Stem & Lintz, 2001, p. 55)

**Reference list entry**

Electronic Articles
APA uses a digital object identifier (doi) which functions like an ISBN for articles. When citing a doi: 1) Always put the word “doi” in lowercase and 2) Never place a period at the end of the doi number – a doi is a web link

Basic formats

Article found in database that includes a doi (7.01, pp. 198-202)

Article found with a web search (7.01, pp. 198-202)
Author Last Name, First Initials. (Date of publication). Title of Article. Title of Journal, volume number(issue number).
Retrieved from http:www.journalhomepage.com/url

Five authors with doi (7.01, no. 1, p. 198)

Author found with a database search - no doi (6.32, p. 192; 7.01, no 3, p. 199)
Do not include the database information as database contents can change over time. Print articles and articles found in a database are cited using the same format.
The following article was found in the Academic Search Complete database.

Books

Basic format (7.02, p. 202)
Author Last Name, First Initials. (Year of Publication). Title. City, State Abbreviation: Publisher.

Authored book (7.02, no. 18, p. 203)

Book with two authors (7.02, pp. 202-205)

Chapter in a print book (7.02, p. 204)

Ebook (7.02, pp. 203-204)

Non-Print and Web Examples

Webpage with no author or date (from the APA Style Blog, http://blog.apastyle.org/)

In-text (PsychologyNet.org, n.d.).
In this example the corporate author is also the publisher.

**Basic format for a court decision** (A7.03, p. 217)
Name v. Name, Volume Source Page (Court Date)

**Basic format for a law or statute** (A7.04, pp. 219-220)
Name of Act, Volume Source § section number (year)

**Basic format for a hearing** (A7.05, pp. 221-223)
Title, # Cong. (date)
Example:
*State of the CFTC: Examining Pending Rules, Cryptocurrency Regulation, and Cross-Border Agreements*, United States Senate, 115 Congress, (February 15, 2018)

**If you have any questions about this guide or would like to suggest a change**
Email the Research & Writing Studio at rws@wwu.edu