What is APA Style?

APA is short for the American Psychological Association. APA Style is commonly used to cite sources within the social sciences. There are many other citation styles such as the MLA Style and the Chicago Manual of Style. This guide provides examples on how to format citations for a Reference list in APA style.

References Page Basics

Step 1: Format your reference page
- Start a separate page at the end of your paper and title it: “References” at the center of the page.
- Double-space throughout the page.
- Begin the first line of the citation at the left margin and use hanging indent (5 spaces to the right) for all subsequent lines.
- Arrange all works cited in alphabetical order. Ignore beginning articles such as: “the,” “a,” and “an.”

Step 2: Determine the type of source you are citing
- Are you citing from a book, newspaper article, magazine article, journal article, or website?
- See the sections below for the citation format for specific types of sources.

Step 3: Find the citation elements

- Name(s) of author(s) – list the author by last name, first name initial. Put a period after the first name initial.
  - More than one author – List authors by last name, first name initial (up to 7 authors); put a comma in between the names, and put & before the last author. [e.g. Hayward, D., Smith, A., & Brown, J.]
  - More than 8 authors – List the first 6 authors and insert three ellipsis points […] then add the last author.
  - No author – when there is no author, start with the article title or the book title.
- Date of publication – Put the year, and enclose it in parentheses
  - If there is specific date information – put the year then a comma and then the month and day [e.g. (2011, July 4)]
  - If no date is available – write “n.d.” in parentheses.
- Title of the work
  - Article title – Capitalize only the first word of the title and subtitle, and any proper nouns.
  - Periodical title – Capitalize all the major words in the periodical title and put in italics (i.e. magazine, newspaper or journal title)
  - Book or report title – Capitalize only the first word of the title and subtitle and any proper nouns; put in italics.
- Periodical Publication information
  - Volume number – Give the volume number after periodical title in italics; do not use “vol.”
  - Issue number – Include the issue number in parentheses after the volume number; do not italicize.
  - Page numbers – Include the page numbers after the volume and issue number; end with a period.
- Electronic resources
  - DOI (Digital Object Identifier) is a unique string of numbers and letters assigned to some journal articles to make them easier to locate. If your article has a DOI, include it in your citation.
  - If no DOI is provided for the article, include the URL of the journal article. You do not need to include the name of the database.
# Citation Format for Books

Author’s Last Name, First Initial. (Year). *Book title: Capitalize the first word in subtitle [in italics]*. Place of publication: Publisher. Retrieved from: [http://www.xxxxxx](http://www.xxxxxx) [if eBook].

## Book with Multiple Authors (up to 7 authors; for 8 or more authors, see p.1 for instructions)


## Chapter from a Book


## Article/Entry from an Online Reference Book


# Citation Format for Articles

## Newspaper Articles & Magazine Articles

Author’s Last Name, First Initial. (Year, Month Day). *Title of article. Magazine or Newspaper Title [in italics], volume number [in italics] (issue number) [in parentheses, no italics], pp – pp. [For newspaper articles, put p. or pp. before page numbers].

**Newspaper article with no author from a printed source**


**Magazine article from an online database**


## Scholarly Journal Articles

Author’s Last Name, First Initial. (Year). *Title of article. Journal Title [in italics], volume number [in italics] (issue number) [in parentheses, no italics], pp – pp. doi:xx.xxxxxxxx. [If no doi available, provide the URL].

**Journal article from a printed source:**


**Journal article from an online database with a DOI:**


**Journal article from an online database without a DOI:**


# Citation Format for Open Web Sources

Author’s Last Name, First Name. (Year, Month Day). *Title of web page or post [in italics]*. Retrieved from [http://xxxxxxxxxxxxx](http://xxxxxxxxxxxxx)

**Web page:**


**Web page with no author:**


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This guide is based on the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 6th edition.