

# Citation Basics: APA Style

To document the facts and ideas that you find and use in your research, create a reference list of sources of information cited and a series of references that indicate which facts and ideas came from which source. The American Psychological Association (APA) style of documentation is widely used in the United States. This handout explains and provides examples of the most common types of citations. For more detailed explanations or for more unusual types of citations, please see the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, (6<sup>th</sup> Edition), call number REF BF 76.7.P83 2010, which is available at the Reference Desk, or ask a librarian.

## Reference List Basics

- **Caution:** Citations provided by databases are not always correct. Verify for accuracy.
- Arrange the completed reference list in one alphabetical list by first author's last name.
- Give only the first city of publication; use official two-letter U.S. Postal Service abbreviations for states.
- Each reference must end with a period unless the reference ends with a DOI or a URL.
- Only the first word of a title or subtitle and proper nouns are capitalized in book titles and magazine, journal, and newspaper article titles and subtitles. All major words are capitalized **in journal titles**.
- Select PDF version of electronic resources to obtain page numbers.
- Double space all lines within and between entries. Examples provided are single spaced to save space.
- Indent one-half inch (5 spaces) before the second and all subsequent lines in the citation.
- Use n.d. (no date) when there is no publication date.
- Italicize titles of books and journals.
- Each reference cited in your text must appear in the reference list, and each resource on the reference list must be cited in the text.
- For legal sources, use Bluebook citations.

The boxes below show both specific information you will need for citing and an example for each type of source.

## Formats and Examples for Books

<b>Book: One Author</b>				
Last name of author, Initial(s) of author.	(Date)	<i>Title of book.</i>	City and State of publication:	Publisher.
↓	←	↓	↓	←
Howell, G. (2006). <i>Gertrude Bell: Queen of the desert, shaper of nations</i> . New York, NY: Farrar.				
<b>Book: Multiple Authors</b> (must list up to seven authors)				
Last name of 1 <sup>st</sup> author, Initial(s) of author & Last name, Initials of 2 <sup>nd</sup> author. (Date). <i>Title of book.</i> City and State of publication: Publisher.				
Torrey, E. F. & Knable, M. B. (2005). <i>Surviving manic depression</i> . New York, NY: Basic Books.				
<b>Book: Editor</b>				
Last name of editor, Initial(s) of editor. (Ed.). (Date). <i>Title of book.</i> City and State of publication: Publisher.				
Robertson, G. L. IV (Ed.). (2006). <i>Not in my family: AIDS in the African-American community</i> . Chicago, IL: Agate.				
<b>Book: Chapter or Article with Author</b>				
Last name of article chapter author, Initial(s) of author. (Date). Chapter title. In Book editor Initial(s) and Last name (Ed.), <i>Title of book</i> (edition, Vol. , pp. page numbers of chapter or article). City and State of publication: Publisher.				
Edgren, A.R. & Odle, T.G. (2006). Diabetes Mellitus. In J.L. Lange (Ed.), <i>Gale encyclopedia of medicine (3<sup>rd</sup> ed., Vol. 2, pp.1115-60)</i> . Detroit, MI: Gale.				
<b>eBook</b>				
Last name of author, Initial(s) of author. (Date). <i>Title of book.</i> [ebook type and version if available e.g. Kindle DX version]. Retrieved from URL or name of database.				
Mertig, R. (2012). <i>What nurses know: Diabetes</i> . Retrieved from eBook Collection (EBSCOhost).				
<b>Government Publication: Chapter or Article with Organization Author</b>				
Title of chapter or article. (Date). In Name of Government Agency. <i>Title of publication</i> (edition, pp. page numbers of chapter or article). City and State of publication: Publisher.				
Chemical technicians. (2012). In Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Department of Labor. <i>Occupational outlook handbook (2012-13 ed., pp. 608-10)</i> . Baton Rouge, LA: Claitor's.				

### Formats and Examples for Databases

**Database: Journal Article**

Last name of author(s), Initial(s) of author(s). (Date). Title of article. *Journal Title*, Volume number (Issue number), page(s). Digital Object Identifier (doi) If available. If no doi, use Retrieved from Title of Database.

Bunce, A., Griest, S., Howarth, L., C. Beemsterboer, P., Cameron, W., & Carney, P.A. (2009). Educating youth about health and science using a partnership between an academic medical center and community-based science museum. *Journal of Community Health*, 34 (4), 262-270. doi: 10.1007/510900-009-9157-s

**Database: Newspaper Article**

Last name of author, Initial(s) of author. (Date in year, month day format). Title of article. *Newspaper Title*, pp. page numbers of article. Retrieved from Name of database.

Kohn, D. (2004, May 10). New chemicals studied for depression. *Journal-Gazette*, pp.2-2D. Retrieved from ProQuest Newstand.

### Formats and Examples for Web Sites

**Web Site: Journal Article**

Last name of author(s), Initial(s) of author(s). (Date in year, month day format). Title of article. *Title of Journal*, Volume number (Issue number), page(s). Digital Object Identifier (doi) if available. If no doi, use Retrieved from URL.

Carter, P.M., Walton, M.A., Newton, M.F., Clery, M., Whiteside, L.K., Zimmerman, M.A., & Cunningham, R.M. (2013, July 8). Firearm possession among adolescents presenting to an urban emergency department for assault. *Pediatrics*, 132(2), 1-9. doi: 10.1542/peds.2013-0163

**Web Site: Newspaper Article**

Last name of author(s), Initial(s) of author(s). (Date in year, month day format). Title of article. *Title of Newspaper*. Retrieved from URL

Turque, B. (2015, May 18). Supreme Court: Maryland has been illegally double-taxing residents who pay income tax to other states. *The Washington Post*. Retrieved from [www.washingtonpost.com/local/md-politics/supreme-court-rules-maryland-income-tax-law-is-unconstitutional/2015/05/18/1e92e7a-916f-11e4-ab77-9646eea6a4c7\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/md-politics/supreme-court-rules-maryland-income-tax-law-is-unconstitutional/2015/05/18/1e92e7a-916f-11e4-ab77-9646eea6a4c7_story.html)

**Web Site: No Author**

*Title of site*. (Date created). Retrieved from URL

*Calcium: What you need to know*. (2010). Retrieved from [familydoctor.org/familydoctor/en/prevention-wellness/food-nutrition/Nutrients/calcium-what-you-need-to-know.html](http://familydoctor.org/familydoctor/en/prevention-wellness/food-nutrition/Nutrients/calcium-what-you-need-to-know.html)

**Web Site: Organization Author**

Name of organization. (Date created). *Title of Site*. Retrieved from URL

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. (2009-2010). *NAACP: 100 years of history*. Retrieved from [www.naacp.org/Page/naacp-history](http://www.naacp.org/Page/naacp-history)

**Web Site: PDF/Report**

Last names(s) of author(s), Initial(s) of author(s). (Date created). *Title of site*. Retrieved from URL

Johnston, L.D., O'Malley, P.M., Miech, R.A., Bachman, J.G., & Schulenberg, J.E. (2015). *Monitoring the future national survey results on drug use: 1975-2014: Overview, key findings on adolescent drug use*. Retrieved from [www.monitoringthefuture.org/pubs/monograph/mtf-overview2014.pdf](http://www.monitoringthefuture.org/pubs/monograph/mtf-overview2014.pdf)

**Web Site: With Author/Editor**

Last name of author(s), Initial(s) of author(s) /editor(s). (Date created). *Title of site*. Retrieved from URL

Dwyer, L. (2012). *We know how to end bullying in schools-so why don't we do it?* Retrieved from <http://www.safechild.org/new/2012/03/06/777/>

### Formats and Examples for Other Resources

**Image: Commercial**

Last name of creator(s), Initial(s) of creator(s). (Date). *Title of image*. Retrieved from URL

Santos, S. (n.d.). *Male human body anatomy*. Retrieved from <http://www.shutterstock.com/pic-11476696/stock-photo-male-human-body-anatomy.html>

**Interview**

(Initial and last name of person interviewed, personal communication, Date of message in month day, year)  
 [Note: Parenthetically cite personal interview in text only; do not cite on the reference list.]

(M. Sargent, personal communication, February 15, 2010).

**Motion Picture/Video/DVD**

Last name of author(s), Initial(s) of author(s). (Function of author). (Date). *Title of movie*. [Type of production]. Place of production: Studio.

Stern, P. (Producer) & Thompson, M. (Writer). (2006). *Raising Cain* [DVD]. United States: PBS Home Video.

**YouTube Broadcast**

*Title of program*. (Date of broadcast). [Type of broadcast]. Retrieved from URL

*Stanford's Sapolsky on depression in the U.S.* (2009, November 10). [Video]. Retrieved from <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NOAplgTxfc>

**TED Talk**

Last name of speaker, Initial(s) of speaker. (Date in year, month day format). Title of talk [Video file]. Retrieved from URL

Cuddy, A. (2012, June). Your body language shapes who you are [Video file]. Retrieved from [https://www.ted.com/talks/amy\\_cuddy\\_your\\_body\\_language\\_shapes\\_who\\_you\\_are](https://www.ted.com/talks/amy_cuddy_your_body_language_shapes_who_you_are)

**Blog Post**

Last name of author(s), Initial(s) of author(s). (Date in year, month, day format). Title of the post [Web log comment]. Retrieved from URL

Sisaye, S. (2015, May 15). Bullying rates drop [Web log post]. Retrieved from [www.stopbullying.gov/blog/2015/05/15/bullying-rates-drop](http://www.stopbullying.gov/blog/2015/05/15/bullying-rates-drop)

**Additional Examples****Academic Search Premier**

Manning, W., Trella, D., Lyons, H., & DuToit, N. (2010). Marriageable women: A focus on participants in a community healthy marriage program. *Family Relations, 59* (1), 87-102. doi: 10.1111/j. 1741-3729.2009.00588.x

**Lexis-Nexis Academic**

Neuman, W. (2010, August 21). Growing concern about tainted eggs as millions more are recalled. *New York Times*, p.B.1. Retrieved from Lexis-Nexis Academic.

**Opposing Viewpoints in Context**

Gordon, S. (2000). A variety of factors causes adolescent drug abuse. In L. Engendorf (Ed.), *Opposing viewpoints: Chemical dependency*. San Diego, CA: Greenhaven Press. Retrieved from Opposing Viewpoints in Context.

**ProQuest Psychology Journals**

Cohen, J.A., Jaycox, L.H., Walker, D.W., Mannanno, A.P., Langley, A.K., & DuClos, J.L. (2009). Treating traumatized children after Hurricane Katrina: Project Fleur-de-Lis™. *Psychology Review, 12*(1), 55-64. doi: 10.1007/510567-009-0039-2

**PsycARTICLES**

Drerup, L. C., Croysdale, A., & Hoffmann, N. G. (2008). Patterns of behavioral health conditions among adolescents in a juvenile justice system. *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice, 39*, 122-128. doi: 10.1037/0735-7028.39.2.122

**ScienceDirect**

Liu, Z., Zhang, Y., Li, G. & Zhang, X. (2007). Sensitivity of key factors and uncertainties in health: Risk assessment of benzene pollutant. *Journal of Environmental Sciences, 19*(10), 1272-1280. doi:10.1016/51001-0742(07)60208-3

**VAST: Academic VIDEO Online**

Hunt, C. (Director). (2008). *Frozen river*. [Video File]. Sony. Retrieved from Academic VIDEO Online.

**Web Sites:**

*Cholesterol*. (2012). Retrieved from [www.healthywomen.org/condition/cholesterol](http://www.healthywomen.org/condition/cholesterol)

Mayo Clinic. (2012). *Depression (major depression)*. Retrieved from <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/depression/DS00175>

## Documenting Sources in the Text of the Paper with In-text References

When you quote from a source or use an idea taken from the work of someone else, note this in the text of your paper with an in-text reference. Place the author's last name and the year of publication in parentheses after the material used; when there is no author, use a shortened form of the title and the year. If the author's name appears in the text, it may be omitted from the in-text reference. Include both the last name and initials of the author(s) and the complete citation to the work in the reference list at the end of the paper. Be sure to include a page number in the in-text reference for direct quotations. If no page number is available, use paragraph numbers. If neither page nor paragraph numbers are available, use the nearest heading from the document plus the number of the paragraph below the heading. *Never use the page numbers of web pages you print out: different computers print web pages with different pagination.*

**The text would state:** "Although some cultures and societies condone or even encourage abuse more than others, we must always guard against the cultural arrogance that says that one way is best for all children" (Berger, 2000, p. 34).

**Or the text could state:** According to Berger, "Although some cultures and societies condone or even encourage abuse more than others, we must always guard against the cultural arrogance that says that one way is best for all children" (2000, p. 34).

**The reference list would state:** Berger, K.S. (2000). *The developing person through childhood and adolescence*. New York, NY: Worth.

**With multiple authors, the parenthetical reference in the text depends on how many authors there are:**

**For 2 authors, always cite both names:** (Torrey & Knable, 2005)

**For 3-5 authors, cite all authors the first time referenced but include only surname of the first author plus et al. for any additional in text references for the same source:** (Manning, Trella, Lyons & DuToit, 2010, p.89) then (Manning et al., 2010, p.93)

**For 6 or more authors, always cite only surname of the first author plus et al:** (Carter et al. 2013, p.8)

**With no author, use a shortened version of the title, so the parenthetical reference in the text would look like this:** (*Calcium*, 2010).

*Note that all major words are capitalized in titles used in parenthetical references. Use quotes around the title of an article and italicize the title of a book or website.*

---

SHORTENED FORM OF PAPER TITLE

page #

### References

Berger, K.S. (2000). *The developing person through childhood and adolescence*. New York, NY: Worth.

*Calcium: What you need to know*. (2010). Retrieved from [familydoctor.org/familydoctor/en/prevention-wellness/food-nutrition/Nutrients/calcium-what-you-need-to-know.html](http://familydoctor.org/familydoctor/en/prevention-wellness/food-nutrition/Nutrients/calcium-what-you-need-to-know.html)

Carter, P.M., Walton, M.A., Newton, M.F., Clery, M., Whiteside, L.K., Zimmerman, M.A., & Cunningham, R.M. (2013, July 8). Firearm possession among adolescents presenting to an urban emergency department for assault. *Pediatrics*, *132*(2), 1-9. doi: 10.1542/peds.2013-0163

Gordon, S. (2000). A variety of factors causes adolescent drug abuse. In L. Engendorf (Ed.), *Opposing viewpoints: Chemical dependency*. San Diego, CA: Greenhaven Press. Retrieved from *Opposing Viewpoints in Context*.

Mayo Clinic. (2012). *Depression (major depression)*. Retrieved from <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/Depression/DS00175>