

APA 7th Edition Overview

APA (American Psychological Association) is the format most commonly used in Nursing, Business, and the Social Sciences. For any additional questions or guidelines, please check with your professor.



General Reminders

- Every direct quote, paraphrase, and/or summary requires an in-text citation.
- For paraphrases and summaries: the in-text citation requires only the author's last name and the year, for instance: (Jones, 2020).
- For direct quotes: the in-text citation requires the author's last name, the year, and the page number(s), for instance: (Jones, 2020, p. 77) or (Jones, 2020, pp. 77 – 102).
- Every in-text citation must correspond to an entry on your References page (and vice-versa).

Introducing & Integrating Outside Language, Ideas, & Research

- Use signal phrases to distinguish between your own ideas & language and those from outside sources.
- When referring to outside texts in the body of your essay, book titles will be italicized and article titles will be in quotation marks.
- Even if you are not writing in the first-person (I), remember that your outside research does not speak for itself. Introduce quotes and paraphrases, interpret and reflect on any data, definitions, and/or outside research to articulate the relevance, significance, and/or connection to your own main ideas and/or argument.
- Even or especially with research papers, the bulk of the language and the ideas should still be your own.

In-Text Citations [Short]

- If you use the author's name in your sentence, do not also include it in the citation: According to Mary Jones, "many students worry about APA citations" (2020, p. 23).
- If you use the author's name and the year in your sentence, do not also include it in the citation: In 2020, Jones recognized that students were struggling to "read as well as remember" (p. 24).
- If you do not use any identifying information in your sentence, include name, year, and page number – for a direct quote – in your citation: "Students reading on a laptop may not remember as much" (Jones, 2020, p. 25).

In-Text Citations [Long]

Quotes that are more than 40 words long should be blocked, which means starting the quotation on a new line and indenting the passage an additional ½ inch, without quotation marks but still requiring an in-text citation at the end.

One Author

- As Smith (2019) argues....

Two Authors

- Research by Brown and Potter (2018) indicates that....
- More than half of all incoming college students have not previously used APA (Brown & Potter, 2018).

Three or More Authors

- Miller et al. (2016) suggest that...
- Class time spent covering APA citations can be productive for all students (Miller et al., 2016).

Unknown Author

- Cite the source with the title in a signal phrase: According to Amnesty International's overview of human rights abuses in the United States, gun violence and police brutality against Black people remain widespread (2023).
- If you do not use the title in a signal phrase, use two key words from the title in the in-text citation: American Indian and Alaska Native women faced higher rates of sexual violence than other women in the U.S. ("Gender-based Violence," 2023).

Organization as Author

Identify the organization in the signal phrase or in the parenthetical citation, as you would an individual person: According to the American Psychological Association (2000),...

Electronic Sources (a website)

If possible, cite a website using the same author-date style as for print sources.

Indirect Sources (Citing someone who quoted someone else)

Name the original source in your signal phrase and cite the text in which you found that source in the citation: According to Barack Obama, "Focusing your life solely on making a buck shows a certain poverty of ambition" (as cited in Smith, 2018).

FOR YOUR REFERENCE PAGE (See more at OWL Purdue / APA)

Basic Format

Author, A. A., Author, B. B., & Author, C. C. (Year). Title of article. *Title of Periodical*, volume number(issue number), pages. <https://doi.org/xx.xxx/yyyy>

Article in an Electronic Journal:

Baniya, S., and Weech, S. (2019). Data and experience design: Negotiating community-oriented digital research with service learning. *Purdue Journal of Service-Learning and International Engagement*, 6 (1), 11-16. <https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/pjsl/vol6/iss1/5/>

Electronic (Web) Article by an Organization

American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. (2019, November 21). *Justice served: Case closed for over 40 dogfighting victims*. <https://www.aspc.org/news/justice-served-case-closed-over-40-dogfighting-victims>

Article in a Newspaper

Schultz, S. (2005, December 28). Calls made to strengthen state energy policies. *The Country Today*, 1A, 2A.