APA Citation

American Psychological Association (APA) style, like any citation style, consists of two main parts: citations and a bibliography. In APA, citations occur in the text in parentheses. The bibliography, called a “References” page in APA, is an alphabetical list of sources that appears at the end of your paper.

**APA Format Basics**

double-spaced

10-12 pt. Times New Roman font

1” margins

**Header**: each page should have a header with the title of your paper in the top left corner and a page number in the top right corner.

# Using In-Text Citations

In-text citations are used in any sentence in which you have referenced, summarized, paraphrased, or quoted from another author or source. A basic citation contains the author’s last name and the year of publication of the source. If you are using a direct quotation, you must include the page number also.

## Citing Direct Quotations

For direct quotations, give the author’s last name in the body of the sentence, followed by the year in parentheses and the page number at the end of the sentence in parentheses with the abbreviation “p.” before the page number:

Eros (2008) argues that “[c]hoice of instrument is among the most important factors in determining the course of a student's music education“ (p. 57).

If the author’s name is not used in the sentence, put the author’s last name, the year of publication, and the page number in parentheses after the quotation.

It has been argued that “[c]hoice of instrument is among the most important factors in determining the course of a student's music education“ (Eros, 2008, p. 57), but not all researchers agree.

## Citing Paraphrases

If you are paraphrasing or referencing a source but not directly quoting from it, you only need to include the author’s last name and the year of publication in your citation. The same rules apply for the location of the citation information as for quoting. If the author is mentioned in the body of the sentence, put the year in parentheses directly afterward; if not, put the name and year in parentheses at the end of the sentence.

Eros (2008) argues that gender stereotypes about musical instruments can impact a student’s choice of musical instrument.

It has been argued that gender stereotypes about musical instruments can impact a student’s choice of musical instrument (Eros, 2008).

## Citing Works with Multiple Authors

For works with two authors, use both authors’ last names in the parentheses or in your sentence. Use an ampersand (&) instead of “and” to join the names in the citation.

One study found that participants’ math performance decreased after subliminal priming with alcohol-related words (Koningsbruggen & Stroebe, 2011).

For works with three to five authors, use all of the authors’ last names the first time you introduce the source; the next time(s), use the last name of the first author with the abbreviation “et al.” after it in place of the other names.

Rosen, Whaling, Rab, Carrier, and Cheever (2013) found links between Facebook use and a number of psychiatric disorders. The results of the study indicate that people with more Facebook friends are more likely to exhibit narcissistic behaviors (Rosen, et al., 2013).

For works with six or more authors, use the last name of the first author with the abbreviation “et al.” after it in your citations.

# Creating a References Page

To create your references page, first center the title (References) on the first line. Alphabetize the entries for your sources by the last name of the author; for more than one author, use the first one mentioned on the title page. After the first line of each entry, indent subsequent lines.

A basic entry contains the author’s last name and initials, title, source (journal, newspaper, etc.), and publication information. See some of the most common types of entries you may need to create below.

## Book

Reis, E. (2009). *Bodies in doubt: An American history of intersex*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press.

## Article/Chapter in an Edited Book

Beadling, L.L. (2008). The threat of “the good wife”: Feminism, post-feminism, and third-wave feminism in *Firefly*. In R. Wilcox and T.R. Cochran (Eds.), *Investigating* Firefly *and* Serenity*: Science Fiction on the Frontier.* (pp*.* 53-62). Ipswich, MA: I.B. Tauris.

## Article from an Online Journal

For online articles, include the **DOI** (Digital Object Identifier) if available. The DOI is a code that provides a stable location for the article. If no DOI is listed, use the URL of the journal homepage instead. Include the volume number, the issue number in parentheses, and the pages on which the article appears in the journal.

Schmit, D. (2005). Re-visioning antebellum American psychology: The dissemination of mesmerism, 1836-1854. *History of Psychology*, 8(4), 403-434. doi: 10.1037/1093-4510.8.4.403

## Website

When citing a website, provide as much information as possible including author or organization (if known), the date of publication or most recent update, the title of the website, the date you accessed the site, and the URL.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2013). *Health care reform*. Retrieved March 1, 2013, from http://www.healthfinder.gov