

Get in Style with APA !

What is APA?

- American Psychological Association (APA) style is used when writing research papers for social and behavioral science courses: education, economics, history, nursing, political science, psychology, sociology, etc.
- APA emphasizes the author of a text and its year of publication in order to easily tell if the source is current.

In-Text Citations

- When you integrate a source into the main body of your paper, APA requires that you:
 - Identify author, either in a signal phrase as part of the sentence, or in a parenthetical citation.
 - Indicate the year of publication following the author's name. If the author's name is part of the sentence, place the date in parentheses after the name. If the author is not named in the sentence, place the date after the author's name and a comma in the parenthetical citation.
 - According to Buley (2007), ice cream is a leading cause of high cholesterol.
 - Ice cream is a leading cause of high cholesterol (Buley, 2007).
 - Include a page reference for a quotation or specific piece of information. Put a "p." before the page number. If the author is named in the text, place the page number in parentheses after the source material. You do not need a page number if you are summarizing the source as a whole or paraphrasing an idea found throughout the work.
 - According to Buley (2007), one scoop of Baskin-Robbins' Cherries Jubilee ice cream contains 50mg of cholesterol (p. 89).

Examples

- Work with one author
 - Use a signal phrase that includes the author's last name followed by the year of publication in parentheses. Place the page number (preceded by a "p.") in parentheses after the quotation.
 - In his recent study of the effect of sunshine on student behavior, Mitchell (2006) claims that "warmer weather tends to result in low class attendance and a decreased ability to retain information" (p. 7).
 - When the author is not named in a signal phrase, place the name, year, and page number in parentheses after the quotation.
 - When class is held on a sunny afternoon, "student attendance drops, on average, to 78%" (Mitchell, 2006, p. 16).
- Work with two authors
 - Use both names in the signal phrase or parentheses each time you cite the work. In the signal phrase, use "and" between the names; in the parentheses, use "&".
 - According to Marx and Stanton (1996), "cats lose their sense of balance when their whiskers are cut" (p. 367).

- In addition to helping cats balance, whiskers detect movement in the surrounding air and, therefore, significantly contribute to the ability of felines to catch rodents (Marx & Stanton, 1996, p. 381).
- Work with three to five authors
 - Name all authors in the signal phrase or parentheses the first time the source is cited. In all subsequent citations, use the first author's name followed by "et al." in either the signal phrase or the parentheses.
 - In 2001, Eenie, Meenie, Miny, and Moe determined that children's games like Duck Duck Goose are socializing activities that "increase a child's sense of self but also heighten his or her insecurity at being singled out of a crowd" (p. 79).
 - Many children's games seem harmless but actually create "a defensive response that may result in fear of group interaction" (Eenie et al., 2001, p. 80).
- Work with six or more authors
 - Use the first author's name followed by "et al." in the signal phrase or parentheses.
 - Hullaboo et al. (2003) taste-tested fifty ice cream flavors in order to determine the top five to be released as permanent additions to the company's line.
- Unknown author
 - If there is no author specified, use the full title of the work in the signal phrase or give an abbreviated version of the title in the parentheses. Italicize books and reports; put articles and chapters in quotation marks.
 - According to "Effects of Caffeinated Coffee Beverages on the Study Habits and Bank Accounts of College Students" (1998), the average student purchases two coffee drinks each day (p. 4).
 - If the average coffee drink costs \$2.50, college students would save approximately \$70.00 each month by reducing their intake to one coffee drink each day ("Effects of Coffee," 1998, p. 6).
- Two or more works in the same parentheses
 - When a parenthetical citation names two or more works, put them in the same order that they appear in the reference list, separated by semicolons.
 - Many studies indicate that cell phone usage of more than three hours per day may expose the brain to harmful levels of radioactive waves (Johnson et al., 2005; Murphy, 2004; Zapota & Creel, 2005).
- Electronic document
 - If possible, cite an electronic document in the same manner as any other document. If no date is available, use the abbreviation "n.d." ("no date").
 - Online periodicals make it much easier to access a wide variety of materials; however, increased use of internet sources poses challenges for students wondering how to properly cite information ("Online Research," n.d.).
 - If no page numbers are available, provide information to help readers locate the particular passage. When an electronic document has numbered paragraphs, use the abbreviation "para." Followed by the paragraph number. (Hale, 1987, para. 5)

References

Books

- Book with one author
 - Shelby, H. C. (2001). *The rise of genetic engineering*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.
- Book with two or more authors
 - Hoveritch, P., Childers, A., & Kroft, J. (1999). *Artificial intelligence: New solutions to old problems*. New York: Norton.
- Book with editor(s)
 - Ermit, G. U. (Ed.). (2004). *Challenges in nursing practice*. Philadelphia: Independence Press.
- Selection in an edited book or anthology
 - Jones, M. (1995). The results of drinking contaminated water on children in Honduras. In B. O. Evans (Ed.), *Addressing environmental issues in Latin America* (pp. 44-67). Washington, DC: Brookings Institution.
- Translation
 - Jorig, H. E., & Volib, C. (1998). *Exploring France: Travels and trials, 1994-1997* (F. Rinkle, Trans.). San Francisco: Emmett.
- Edition other than the first
 - Woring, I. N. (2000). *Technological solutions: Food, transportation, and communication* (3rd ed.). New York: Columbia University Press.

Periodicals

- Article in a journal paginated by volume
 - Arci, F. (1996). Practices in career counseling. *Journal of College and University Career Centers*, 34, 94-107.
- Article in a journal paginated by issue
 - Huong, J., & Borges, N. (2001). Training your canine for competition. *Dogs*, 12 (3), 4-18.
- Article in a magazine
 - Garabaldi, F. J. (1995, January 28). Snorkeling for the beginner. *Vacation Destinations*, 195, 46-48.
- Article in a newspaper
 - Alphonso, O. (1992, March 3). Spring comes early to central Pennsylvania. *The Lancaster Times*, pp. C1, C4.

Electronic Sources

- Online article from a database
 - Ulna, G. C. (2003). Trends in setting broken bones. *Health Focus*, 11, 202-208. Retrieved April 15, 2007, from Med-Field database.
- Internet article
 - Kilt, P., & Pipes, R. (1993). An ethnographic study of highland music. *Electronic Journal of Ethnography*, 5. Retrieved June 5, 1996, from <http://www.ethnography.org/content/vol005/th.html>