



Connors Writing Center

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Style Basics—APA (American Psychological Association)

- ♦ APA is used primarily in the social sciences—psychology, sociology, nursing, family studies, etc.
- ♦ APA places emphasis on the date of publication, whereas other styles (MLA for example) emphasize the page number.
- ♦ APA Style is a parenthetical documentation style. This means it uses in-text citations.
- ♦ 3 pieces of information must be included in the in-text citations. **The author's last name and the date of publication must always appear.** The third piece of information, **the page number, appears only in a citation to a direct quotation.** The information contained in parentheses is separated by commas.

For example: (Smith, 2000) or (Smith, 2000, p. 23)

There are 3 ways to use APA style citations:

- 1) **Idea-focused:** Place the author(s) and date(s) in parentheses at an appropriate place in or at the end of a sentence.

eg: Researchers have pointed out that the lack of trained staff is a common barrier to providing adequate health education (Fisher, 1999) and services (Weist & Christodulu, 2000).

- 2) **Researcher-focused:** Include the names of the researcher(s) in the sentence. Place only the date in parentheses.

eg: Fisher (1999) recommended that health education be required for high school graduation in Florida.

- 3) **Chronology-focused:** Integrate the author and the date into your sentence.

eg: In 2001, Weist proposed using the Child and Adolescent Planning Schema to analyze and develop community mental health programs for young people.

When citing a direct quotation, include the page numbers as follows:

Lopez (1993) found that “the effect disappeared within minutes” (p. 311).

Formatting the References List:

Title: Type the word “References” at the top of a new page, centered.

Spacing: All entries should be double-spaced, unless your assignment instructs you otherwise.

Indentation: Use a hanging indent unless your final draft will be submitted for publication.

Capitalization: Capitalize only the first word of titles of books and articles. If there is a subtitle, capitalize the first word after the colon. **ex:** *Family meditation: Facts, myths, and future prospects.*

Organization: All entries should be alphabetized by authors' last names.

(over)

Sample Reference Entries

Book with a single author:

Baxter, C. (1997). *Race equality in health care and education*. Philadelphia: Balliere Tindall.

Author's last name & first initial. (Year of publication). *Title of work: Capital letter for subtitle*. Location: Publisher.

Book with editors in place of authors:

Stock, G., and Campbell, J. (Eds.). (2000). *Engineering the human genome: An exploration of the science and ethics of altering the genes we pass to our children*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Authors' last names & first initials (Eds.). (Year of publication). *Title of work: Capital letter for subtitle*. Location: Publisher.

Chapter in an edited work:

Roy, A. (1995). Psychiatric emergencies. In H.I. Kaplan and B.J. Sadock (Eds.), *Comprehensive textbook of psychiatry*. (6th ed., pp. 1739-1752). Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins.

Author of chapter. (Year of publication). Chapter title. In Name(s) of editor(s) (Eds.). *Title of larger work*. (Edition information, pages of chapter). Location: Publisher.

Magazine article:

Greenberg, G. (2001, August 13). As good as dead: Is there really such a thing as brain death? *New Yorker*, 36-41.

Author of article. (Year and date of publication). Article title. *Magazine title*, pages of article.

Journal article:

Roy, A. (1982). Suicide in chronic schizophrenia. *British Journal of Psychiatry*, 141, 171-177.

Author of article. (Year of publication). Title of article. *Title of journal*, volume number, pages of article.

Internet source created by a private organization:

Greater New Milford (Ct) Area Healthy Community 2000, Task Force on Teen and Adolescent Issues. (n.d.). *Who has time for a family meal? You do!* Retrieved October 5, 2000, from <http://www.familymealtime.org>.

Title of website. (Date of last update). *Title of page or article*. Date you visited the site, web address or URL. **If the website has a listed author, list the author before the title of the website.**

Notes:

- At a minimum, the reference for an internet source should provide a **document title or description, a date (the date of publication or the date of retrieval), and the web address**. Whenever possible, identify the author as well. The web address (URL) is the most important element of the citation. It is crucial to provide working web addresses.
- Unlike MLA, **APA Style does not require quotation marks around chapter titles or article titles in the References list**.

This page was adapted from:

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 5th edition, and the UW-Madison Writing Center Online <<http://www.wisc.edu/writing/handbook/docAPA/html>>