APA Citation Style

APA style for in-text citations

APA style requires parenthetical citations in the text to document quotations, paraphrases, summaries, and other material from a source (12f). These in-text citations correspond to full bibliographic entries in a list of references at the end of the text.

1. AUTHOR NAMED IN A SIGNAL PHRASE

Generally, use the author's name in a signal phrase to introduce the cited material, and place the date, in parentheses, immediately after the author's name. For a quotation, the page number, preceded by p., appears in parentheses after the quotation. For electronic texts or other works without page numbers, paragraph numbers may be used instead.

Key (1983) has argued that the placement of women in print advertisements is subliminally important.

As Briggs (1970) observed, parents play an important role in building their children's self-esteem because "children value themselves to the degree that they have been valued" (p. 14).

Position the page reference in parentheses two spaces after the final punctuation of a long, set-off quotation.

2. AUTHOR NAMED IN PARENTHESSES

When you do not mention the author in a signal phrase in your text, give the name and the date, separated by a comma, in parentheses at the end of the cited material.

One study has found that only 68% of letters received by editors were actually published (Renfro, 1979).

3. TWO AUTHORS

Use both names in all citations. Use and in a signal phrase, but use the ampersand (&) in parentheses.

Murphy and Orkow (1985) reached somewhat different conclusions by designing a study that was less dependent on subjective judgment than were previous studies.

A recent study that was less dependent on subjective judgment resulted in conclusions somewhat different from those of previous studies (Murphy & Orkow, 1985).

4. THREE TO FIVE AUTHORS

List all the author’s name for the first reference.

Belenky, Clinchy, Goldberger, and Tarule (1986) have suggested that many women rely on observing and listening to others as ways of learning about themselves.

In subsequent references, use just the first author’s name plus et al.

From this experience, observed Belenky et al. (1986), women learn to listen to themselves think, a step toward self-expression.

5. SIX OR MORE AUTHORS

Use only the first author’s name and et al. in every citation.
As Mueller et al. (1980) demonstrated, television holds the potential for distorting and manipulating consumers as free-willed decision makers.

6. ORGANIZATION AS AUTHOR

If the name of an organization or a corporation is long, spell it out the first time, followed by an abbreviation in brackets. In later citations, use the abbreviation only.

**FIRST CITATION:** (Centers for Disease Control [CDC] 1990)
**LATER CITATION:** (CDC, 1990)

7. UNKNOWN AUTHOR

Use the title or its first few words in a signal phrase or in parentheses (in this example, a book's title is underlined.)

The school profiles for the county substantiated this trend (**Guide to Secondary Schools,** 1983).

8. TWO OR MORE AUTHORS WITH THE SAME LAST NAME

If your list of references includes works by different authors with the same last name, to avoid confusion, include the authors' initials in each citation.

G. Jones (1984) conducted the groundbreaking study of retroviruses.

9. TWO OR MORE SOURCES WITH IN THE SAME PARENTHESES

List sources by different authors in alphabetical order by author's last name, separated by semicolons: (Chodorow, 1978; Gilligan, 1982). List works by the same author in chronological order, separated by commas: (Gilligan, 1977, 1982).

10. SPECIFIC PARTS OF A SOURCE

Use abbreviations (chap., p., and so on) in a parenthetical citation to name the part of a work you are citing.

Montgomery (1988, chap. 9) argued that his research yielded the opposite results.

11. EMAIL AND OTHER PERSONAL COMMUNICATION

Cite any personal letters, email, electronic bulletin-board correspondence, telephone conversations, or interviews with the person's initial(s) and last name, the identification personal communication, and the date. Note, however, that APA recommends not including personal communications in the reference list.

J. L. Morin (personal communication, October 14, 1999) supported with new evidence the claims made in her article.

12. WORLD WIDE WEB SITE
To cite an entire Web site, include its address in parentheses in your text (http://www.gallup.com); you do not need to include it in your list of references. To cite part of a text found on the Web, indicate the chapter or figure, as appropriate. To document a quotation, include the page or paragraph numbers, if available, or you may omit them if they are not available.

Shade argued the importance of "ensuring equitable gender access to the Internet" (1993).

**APA Style for a List of References**

The following sample entries are in a hanging indent format, in which the first line aligns on the left and the subsequent lines indent one-half inch or five spaces. This is the customary APA format for final copy, including student papers. Unless your instructor suggests otherwise, it is the format we recommend. Note, however, that for manuscripts submitted to journals, APA requires the reverse (first lines indented, subsequent lines flushed left), assuming that the citations will be converted by a typesetting system to a hanging indent. Similarly, APA allows for the substitution of italics for underlining in student papers; check which format your instructor prefers.

**Books**

1. **ONE AUTHOR**
   

2. **TWO OR MORE AUTHORS**
   

3. **ORGANIZATION AS AUTHOR**
   

   Use the word Author as the publisher when the organization is both the author and the publisher.


4. **UNKNOWN AUTHOR**
   

5. **EDITOR**
   

6. **SELECTION IN A BOOK WITH AN EDITOR**
   

7. **TRANSLATION**

8. EDITION OTHER THAN THE FIRST

9. ONE VOLUME OF A MULTIVOLUME WORK

10. ARTICLE IN A REFERENCE WORK

If no author is listed, begin with the title.

11. REPUBLICATION

12. GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT

13. TWO OR MORE WORKS BY THE SAME AUTHOR
List two or more works by the same author in chronological order. Repeat the author’s name in each entry.


Periodicals

14. ARTICLE IN A JOURNAL PAGINATED BY VOLUME

15. ARTICLES IN A JOURNAL PAGINATED BY ISSUE
16. ARTICLES IN A MAGAZINE

17. ARTICLE IN A NEWSPAPER

18. EDITORIAL OR LETTER TO THE EDITOR

19. UNSIGNED ARTICLE

20. REVIEW

21. PUBLISHED INTERVIEW

22. TWO OR MORE WORKS BY THE SAME AUTHOR IN THE SAME YEAR
List works alphabetically by title, and place lowercase letters (a, b, etc.) after the dates.


Electronic Sources

23. WORLD WIDE WEB SITE
To cite a whole site, give the address in a parenthetical citation (p. 420).

To cite a document from a Web site, include information as you would for a print document, followed by a note on its retrieval.


24. FTP (FILE TRANSFER PROTOCOL), TELNET, OR GOPHER SITE
After the retrieval statement, give the address (substituting ftp, telnet, or gopher for http at the beginning of the URL) or the path followed to access information, with slashes to indicate menu selections.


25. LISTSERV MESSAGE
Provide the author's name; the date of posting, in parentheses; the subject line from the posting; the retrieval statement; and the listserv address.

Lackey, N. (1995, January 30). From Clare to here. Retrieved May 1, 1997 from the listserv: nanci@world.std.com

To cite a file that can be retrieved from a list's server or Web address, include the address or URL for the list's archive.


26. NEWSGROUP MESSAGE
Include the author's email address, enclosed in angle brackets. After the subject line from the posting, give a retrieval statement that ends with the name of the newsgroup.

27. EMAIL MESSAGE
The APA’s Publication Manual discourages including e-mail in a list of references and suggests citing email only in text as personal communication.

28. SYNCHRONOUS COMMUNICATION (MUDs, MOOs)
To cite postings in MUDs, MOOs, and IRCs, provide the speaker’s name, if known, or the name of the site; the date of the event, in parentheses; the title of the event, if appropriate; and the kind of communication (Group discussion, Personal interview) in brackets if not indicated elsewhere. Include a retrieval statement with the address using a URL or other Internet address.


29. MATERIAL FROM A CD-ROM DATABASE

30. MATERIAL FROM AN INFORMATION SERVICE OR ONLINE DATABASE

31. MATERIAL FROM A DATABASE ACCESSED VIA THE WEB
32. SOFTWARE OR COMPUTER PROGRAM


33. TECHNICAL OR RESEARCH REPORTS AND WORKING PAPERS


34. PAPER PRESENTED AT A MEETING OR SYMPOSIUM, UNPUBLISHED

Cite the month of the meeting if it is available.


35. DISSERTATION, UNPUBLISHED


36. POSTER SESSION


37. FILM OR VIDEOTAPE


38. TELEVISION PROGRAM, SINGLE EPISODE

Begin with the names of the script writers, and give the name of the director, in parentheses, after the episode title.


39. RECORDING