APA Citation Guide

In this guide, you will find examples of the most commonly-used formats. Some examples come from The Writing Lab & OWL at Purdue University (owl.english.purdue.edu/)

You can also find this guide—and more helpful resources—at Help With Your Research on our website (www.mxcc.edu/library).

For additional help, contact us:
- Email: mx-library@mxcc.edu
- Phone: 860.343.5830
- Visit: Chapman Hall, Main Floor
  Middlesex Community College
  100 Training Hill Road, Middletown, CT 06457

~In-Text Citations~

What do you cite?
- All sources that are cited in the text must appear in the reference list at the end of your paper.
- Follow the author-date method of in-text citation. This means that the author’s last name and the year of publication for the source should appear in the text.
  - Include the page number(s) if quoting or paraphrasing.
    (Jones, 1998, p. 23)
  - If you are referring to an idea from another work but NOT directly quoting the material, you only have to make reference to the author and year of publication — not the page number — in your in-text reference.
    (Jones, 1998)

How should it look?
- The author and year of publication can be included in a “signal phrase”:
  According to Badke (2013), “Many faculty members view writing as a significant issue for undergraduate and graduate students” (p. 2).
- Or author, and year can be included in the parentheses at the end:
  “Many faculty members view writing as a significant issue for undergraduate and graduate students” (Badke, 2013, p. 2).
- Multiple citations: To cite multiple sources in the same parenthetical reference, separate the citations by a semi-colon.
  (Rivera, 2008; Smith, 1993)
- Sources without page numbers: When an source lacks page numbers, you should try to include information that will help readers find the passage being cited. For example, if the document includes headings, provide the appropriate heading and specify the paragraph under that heading.
  (EPA, 2013, Introduction)
- Long quotations (40 words or longer): Place these in a free-standing block and leave out quotation marks. Start the quotation on a new line, indented 1/2 inch from the left margin (the same place you would begin a new paragraph). Type the entire quotation on the new margin. Maintain double-spacing throughout. The parenthetical citation should come after the closing punctuation mark.
  Jones’s (1998) study found the following:
  Students often had difficulty using APA style, especially when it was their first time citing sources. This difficulty could be attributed to the fact that many students failed to purchase a style manual or to ask their teacher for help. (p. 199)
Title Rules

♦ Italicize the titles of longer works such as books, edited collections, movies, television series, documentaries, or albums.

Bowling for Columbine; The Hunger Games; or Friends

♦ Put quotation marks around the titles of shorter works such as journal articles, articles from edited collections, television series episodes, and song titles:

"Home" or "The One Where Chandler Can't Cry"

Author Rules

♦ Works by two authors: Name both authors in the signal phrase or in the parentheses each time you cite the work. Use the word "and" between the authors' names within the text and use the ampersand (&) in the parentheses.

Research by Smith and David (2013) states that...
OR
(Smith & David, 2013)

♦ Works by three to five authors: List all the authors the first time you cite the source.

(Thomas, Johnson, Berardino, Joanis, & Powers, 2001)

In following citations, only use the first author's last name, followed by "et al."

(Thomas et al., 2001)

♦ Works by six or more authors: Use the first author's name followed by et al. the first and all times you cite the source.

Kastner et al. (2006) studied...

♦ Unknown author: Cite the source by its title in the text or use the first two words in the parentheses.

In 2013, investigators “citing public safety exception to Miranda Rights, saying they needed to know if there were any other threats to the public” (“Bombing Suspect”).

♦ Organization as an author: If the author is an organization or a government agency, mention the organization in the signal phrase or in the parenthetical citation the first time you cite the source.

According to the American Psychological Association (2000),...

If the organization has a well-known abbreviation, include the abbreviation in brackets the first time the source is cited and then use only the abbreviation in later citations.

First citation: (National Rifle Association (NRA), 2012)
Later citations: (NRA, 2012)

♦ Authors with the same last name: To prevent confusion, use first initials with the last names.

(E. Johnson, 2009; K. Johnson, 1996)

♦ Personal communication: For interviews, letters, emails, and other person-to-person communication, cite the communicator's name, the fact that it was personal communication, and the date of the communication.

(J. Henson, personal communication, January 4, 2001)

~ References (Works Cited) Page ~

General rules

♦ Title the list “References.” Centered, same size font as the rest of the paper.

♦ Include only sources that you have quoted, summarized, or paraphrased. If it is cited in your paper, it must have an entry on the References page.

♦ List the items alphabetically by author last name, regardless of format. If no author is given, start with the first word of the title (other than A, An, or The).

♦ If you cannot find some of the required information, cite what is available.

♦ Double space all lines.

♦ Indent the second and following lines 1/2 inch, which is called a “hanging indent.” To do so in Microsoft Word:

1. Highlight your citation list.
2. Right-click and select “Paragraph.”
3. In the Indentation section, select “Hanging” from the Special menu.
4. Click “OK.”

Title rules

♦ Italicize the titles and subtitles of books or periodicals.

♦ Capitalizing:

◇ Books & Articles:

- The first letter of the first word of the title and subtitle.
- The first letter of a word after a colon or dash. But do NOT capitalize the second word in a hyphenated compounded word (i.e. Short-term gains).

◇ Periodicals: Capitalize words in the title as done by the periodicals.

Author rules

♦ Use only the initials of the authors’ first names.

♦ Basic formats:

◇ One author: Author last, First initials.

Jeter, D.

◇ 2-7 authors: List by last names and initials; commas separate author names, while the last author name is preceded by ampersand.

Thomas K. H., Cornell, D., Rockwell, B., Harlow, T., & Ritch, J.S.

◇ More than 7 authors: List by last names and initials; commas separate author names. After the sixth author's name, use an ellipses in place of the author names. Then provide the final author name. There should be no more than seven names.

## References


### Scholarly Journal Article

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author last, initials</th>
<th>Publication year</th>
<th>Article title</th>
<th>Journal title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Volume(issue)</td>
<td>Pages(s)</td>
<td>Digital object identifier (DOI) or database name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72(1)</td>
<td>104-122.</td>
<td>doi:10.1016/jecp.1996.05.007</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Magazine or Newspaper Article

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author last, initials</th>
<th>Publication date</th>
<th>Article title</th>
<th>Magazine/paper title</th>
<th>Vol.</th>
<th>Pages(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Reference Entry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of entry</th>
<th>Date of entry</th>
<th>Title of reference work</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Electronic book

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author last, initials</th>
<th>Publication year</th>
<th>Title of e-book</th>
<th>DOI or database name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Image/Artwork

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of image</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title of work</th>
<th>DOI or database name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Website (For additional examples, refer to mxcc.edu/library > Help with your Research.)

Author/Owner: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
Publication date: (2011).
Title of website: Ground water and drinking water.
URL: Retrieved from http://water.epa.gov/drink

Print Book

Author last, initials: Diacu, F.
Title of book: Megadisasters: the science of predicting the next catastrophe.
Place of publication: Princeton, NJ:
Publisher: Princeton University Press.

Article or Chapter within a Print Anthology or Textbook

Author of chapter last + init(s): Clay, S.
Publication year of chapter: (2008).
Title of chapter: Everyone is a media outlet.
Book editor(s): in normal order, last + init(s): M. Stubbs & S. Barnet (Eds.),
Title of book: The Little, Brown Reader.
Page range for chapter: (pp. 416-422).
Place of publication: Glenview:
Publisher: Pearson.

DVD

Director last, initials: Guggenheim, D.
Producer last, initials: Bender, L.
Title of DVD: An inconvenient truth
Place of publication: United States:
Studio: Paramount Home Entertainment.

In-Class Lecture (including PowerPoint presentations)

Presenter last, initials: Wallace, J.
Date of presentation: (14 July, 2011).
Title of presentation: The endocrine system
Format: [PowerPoint slides].
Source: in-class lecture.

Personal Communication (e.g., interview or email)

Only cite within text. See the “In-Text Citations” section in this guide.