APA Style Handout from the University Writing Center

Page one

The American Psychological Association (APA) publishes a citation style used primarily in Behavioral and Social Science disciplines for documenting sources in a text.

Why do we cite?

* To give credit to others for their ideas, words, and images
* To lend credibility to our arguments
* To connect our ideas to other writers’ ideas in our field
* To provide readers with sources that they can use for their own projects

When do we cite?

* When we quote other writers’ words
* When we paraphrase (i.e., using our own words to explain someone else’s ideas)
* When we use another writers’ tables, graphs, or images

What do I do if the information I need is not contained in this packet?

* Work with a Writing Center consultant
* Check the *APA Handbook,* 6th Edition
* Visit the *Purdue OWL* website

Where in the paper do I put my citations?

* You need to cite your sources both inside of your text and in a References page located at the end of your paper.

Page two: In-text Citation

**One Author (author’s name is not given in the sentence):**

When you quote or paraphrase, include the author’s name, the year of the publication, and the page numberwhere the quote/paraphrase appears in the original text. This information is placed in parentheses.

Example one: One of the paradoxes of democracy is that “individual freedom is possible when there is discipline regulated by the society” (Doe, 2011, p. 23).

Example two: One of the paradoxes of democracy is that each person can only be free if the larger culture sets up rules to protect that liberty (Doe, 2011, p. 23).

**One Author (author’s name given in the sentence):**

If you write the author’s name before the quotation or paraphrase, you only need to write the page number in parentheses.

Example: According to Doe (2011), one of the paradoxes of democracy is that “individual freedom is possible when there is discipline regulated by the society” (p. 23).

**Two Authors:**

If a work has two authors, cite both names every time you cite the source.

* Example: (Doe and Smith, 1982, p. 23)

**Three, Four, or Five Authors:**

If a work has three or more authors, give all names the first time you cite and just the first name followed by “et al.” in all subsequent citations. Below is an example.

* (Doe, Smith, Williams, and Jones, 1982, p. 23)
* (Doe et al., 1982, p. 23)

**Six or More Authors:**

If a work has six or more authors, always follow the first name with “et al.” Below is an example.

* (Doe et al., 1982, p. 23)

**Multiple Texts by the Same Author:**

Add the year of each publication. If you are citing more than one work by the same author published within the same year, add suffixes after the year (a,b,c):

* Example: (Doe, 1982a, 1982b, 2011)

Page three: In-text Citations Continued

**No Author Listed:**

Give the title of the work, shortened or in full. Note that using a source with “no author” can raise a credibility issue.

Example: (“Green Day,” 2007)

**Electronic and Other Non-print Sources without Page Numbers:**

Try to give the section or paragraph number.

Example: (Doe, 2011, para. 3)

**Quoting from Another Source:**

Example: John Johnson wrote that individual freedom “should not take precedence over social welfare” (as cited in Doe, 2011, p. 4).

Page four: Reference Entries

**Book, One Author:**

Author’s last name, first initial. (Year of publication). *Title of book.* Place of Publication:

Publisher.

Denny, H.C. (2010). *Facing the center: Toward an identity politics of one-to-one mentoring*.

Logan, UT: Utah State UP.

**Book Chapter, One Author with Editor:**

Pemberton, M. A. (2003). The writing lab newsletter as history: Tracing the growth of a

scholarly community. In M. A. Pemberton & J. Kinkead (Eds.),*The center will hold: Critical perspectives on writing center scholarship* (pp. 21-40). Logan, UT: Utah State UP.

**Journal Article, One Author:**

Author’s last name, first initial. (Year of publication). Title of article. *Title of journal*, *Volume*

*number*(Issue number), Inclusive pages. doi#.

Postle, K. (2009). Detecting and deterring plagiarism in social work students: Implications for

learning for practice. *Social Work Education*, *28*(4), 351-362. doi:

10.1080/02615470802245926

**Article on Online Magazine:**

Author, A. A. (Year, Month of Publication). Title of work. *Name of Magazine,* *Volume#* (Issue#). URL

Winkler, A. (2011, May). The secret history of guns. *The Atlantic, 308*(2). Retrieved from http://theatlantic.com/

***NOTE about the URL***: Provide the home page URL when the article can be found easily by searching the host site. If the article is difficult to locate on its host site, include the full URL.

**Article on Websites or in Web Magazines with No Author Listed:**

Title of work. (Year of publication). Retrieval date, URL.

New child vaccine gets funding boost. (2001). Retrieved March 21, 2001, from http://

news.ninemsn.com.au/health/story\_13178.asp

***NOTE about retrieval dates***: Only provide the retrieval date for sources that “may change over time” (APA, 2010, p. 192).

Page five: Example of References Page

References

Denny, H.C. (2010). *Facing the center: Toward an identity politics of one-to-one mentoring*. Logan, UT: Utah State UP.

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news.ninemsn.com.au/health/story\_13178.asp

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Postle, K. (2009). Detecting and deterring plagiarism in social work students: Implications for

learning for practice. *Social Work Education*, *28*(4), 351-362. doi:

10.1080/02615470802245926

Yeatman, W. (2009). Global warming 101: Solutions. Retrieved September 21 2009, from http://www.globalwarming.org/2009/02/04/global-warming-101-solutions/

Page six: Additional Resources

Other Helpful Writing Center Handouts:

* Using Sources
* Quoting/paraphrasing/summarizing
* Writing literature reviews

Videos on our website:

* APA Style
  + <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SG9xJ3glWWE&list=PLbzkU_tjDJSNomT-_TwnVcwUYifY1QZbJ>
* Writing with Sources
  + <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e5fLxoUiv6w&list=PLbzkU_tjDJSMdSCIJVXTUt0J5i9rmreQT>