

AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (APA) STYLE

The term “APA style” refers to a standard way of citing references in your text and in the reference list at the end of your paper. There should be a one-to-one identity between the references in your text and those in your reference list. No citations should appear in the text that do not appear in the reference list, and vice versa. Refer to the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (most recent edition) for examples of other types of citations not described here.

CITING REFERENCES IN YOUR TEXT

There are two ways to cite references in the body of your text (footnotes being unnecessary).

First, the author’s name may be part of your sentence, as in the following examples:

A typical finding about the families of mildly retarded children was reported by Richardson (1981), who gave group IQ test to all youngsters ages 7 to 9 in a major city in Scotland.

Scott and Caran (1987) described three levels of prevention of mental retardation: primary, secondary, and tertiary.

When referring to particular passages in a text, paraphrasing a text, or quoting from a text, include the page number, e.g., (1987, pp. 23-24).

Note that the date of publication appears in parentheses and all the authors of a given study are listed in the order in which their names appear on the publication.

Second, the author’s name may not be part of your sentence, but you wish to cite a given article in support of a point you are making. Here are two examples:

Executive function is another key factor in the poor performance of children who are mentally retarded (Baumeister & Brooks, 1981; Borkowski & Day, 1987; Steinberg, 1982).

At one time, many children with LQ scores of 75 who were adapting poorly to school would have been placed in special programs for youngsters with mental retardation; they are not being placed there today (Reschly, 1981).

After the first time you have cited a reference with multiple authors (three or more), you may use et al. after the first author’s name. Here is an example:

First mention of the reference:

Learning-disabled youngsters are substantially less proficient than their nondisabled peers in computing basic number facts (Fleischner, Garnett, & Shepard, 1982).

Second mention of the reference:

Fleischner et al. (1982) reported a lower incidence of counting strategies among third and sixth-grade LD children than among normally achieving math students.

THE REFERENCE LIST AT THE END OF YOUR PAPER

The reference list at the end of your paper documents the articles used and provides the information necessary to identify and retrieve each source. Sources cited in text must appear in the reference list; conversely, each source referenced in the list must be cited in text. The reference list must be double-spaced, and entries should have a hanging indent. Your reference list should be in alphabetical order by author's last name. Also, note that if there are multiple authors, a comma follows each name and an ampersand (&) precedes the last author. Authors' initials are used, not the authors' first or middle names or any titles (e.g., Ph.D.). Note too, that the publication year always appears in parentheses after the authors' names. Formats for a variety of types of citations are presented below.

Journal Article

Ackerman, P. T., Anhalt, J. M., & Dykman, K. A. (1986). Arithmetic automatization failure in children with attention and reading disorders: Associations and sequelae. *Journal of Learning Disabilities, 19*, 222-232.

The authors' names appear in the order in which they appear on the article. The words in the article title are not capitalized (except the first and the first after a colon). Words in the journal name are capitalized and the journal name is italicized, the volume number is italicized, and the pages are not italicized. The words "volume" and "pages" are not used. The journal "number" (such as in "volume 3, number 2") is not given, unless each issue of the journal begins pagination with page 1, which is seldom done. Usually, all of the issues in a volume are paginated sequentially so that when they are bound they function like a book. In the rare case in which each issue begins pagination with page 1, the reference would appear as follows:

Becker, L. J., & Seligman, C. (1981). Welcome to the energy crisis. *Journal of Social Issues, 37*(2), 1-7.

Book

Wadsworth, B. I. (1978). *Piaget in the classroom*. New York: Longman.

Note again that the author's initials are used (not first or middle names), followed by publication year in parentheses. The book title is italicized with only the first word capitalized. The publication location is followed (after a colon) by the publisher.

Chapter in a book

Ashcraft, M. H. (1987). Children's knowledge of simple arithmetic: A developmental model and simulation. In J. Besanz, C. Brainerd, & R. Kail (Eds.), *Formal methods in developmental psychology* (pp. 302-338). New York: Springer-Verlag.

Note that after the author and publication year, the chapter title (with only the first word and the first word after a colon capitalized) is presented. Then the editors are listed, followed by the book title (italicized with only first word capitalized), and pages or volume in parentheses (with the pp. or Vol. included). This is followed by the publication location and publisher.

ERIC Document

Mead, J.V. (1992). Looking at old photographs: Investigating the teacher tales that novice teachers bring with them (Report No. NCRTL-RR-92-4). East Lansing, MI: National Center for research on Teacher Learning. (ERIC Document Reproduction Services No. ED 346082).

Note that after author, year and title, the location and affiliation of the author appears, followed by the ERIC Document Number in parentheses.

Citing a Work Discussed in a Secondary Source

Present the secondary source in the reference List and cite the original work with the secondary source in the text. For example, if a study by Margold (1981) was cited in Tournaki (1990), in your text you would write:

Margold's (1981) study (cited in Tournaki, 1990) reported that underachieving students typically feel frustrated and dislike school learning.

In your reference list at the end of the paper, you would only list Tournaki's (1990) article, not Margold's.

ELECTRONIC REFERENCES

Citations in Text of Electronic Material

The following is excerpted from the 5th edition of the Publication Manual (© 2001) . Some elements of the fifth edition's style guidelines for electronic resources differ from previously published guidelines.

To cite a specific part of a source, indicate the page, chapter, figure, table, or equation at the appropriate point in text. Always give page numbers for quotations. Note that the words *page* and *chapter* are abbreviated in such text citations:

(Cheek & Buss, 1981, p. 332)
(Shimamura, 1989, chap. 3)

For electronic sources that do not provide page numbers, use the paragraph number, if available, preceded by the paragraph symbol or the abbreviation para. If neither paragraph nor page numbers are visible, cite the heading and the number of the paragraph following it to direct the reader to the location of the material (see section 3.39).

(Myers, 2000, ¶ 5)
(Beutler, 2000, Conclusion section, para. 1)

Referencing Electronic Source Materials

Internet articles based on a print source

At present, the majority of the articles retrieved from online publications in psychology and the behavioral sciences are exact duplicates of those in their print versions and are unlikely to have additional analyses and data attached. This is likely to change in the near future. In the meantime, the same basic primary journal reference can be used, but if you have viewed the article only in its electronic form, you should add in brackets after the article title "Electronic version" as in the following fictitious example:

VandenBos, G., Knapp, S., & Doe, J. (2001). Role of reference elements in the selection of resources by psychology undergraduates [Electronic version]. *Journal of Bibliographic Research*, 5, 117-123.

If you are referencing an online article that you have reason to believe has been changed (e.g., the format differs from the print version or page numbers are not indicated) or that includes additional data or commentaries, you will need to add the date you retrieved the document and the URL.

VandenBos, G., Knapp, S., & Doe, J. (2001). Role of reference elements in the selection of resources by psychology undergraduates. *Journal of Bibliographic Research*, 5, 117-123. Retrieved October 13, 2001, from <http://jbr.org/articles.html>

Article in an Internet-only journal

Fedrickson, B. L. (2000, March 7). Cultivating positive emotions to optimize health and well-being. *Prevention & Treatment*, 3, Article 0001a. Retrieved November 20, 2000, from <http://journals.apa.org/prevention/volume3/pre0030001a.html>

Stand-alone document, no author identified, no date

- If the author of a document is not identified, begin the reference with the title of the document.

GVU's 8th WWW user survey. (n.d.). Retrieved August 8, 2000, from <http://www.cc.gatech.edu/gvu/usersurveys/survey1997-10/>

Document available on university program or department Web site

Chou, L., McClintock, R., Moretti, F & Nix, D. H. (1993). *Technology and education: New wine in new bottles: Choosing pasts and imagining educational futures*. Retrieved August 24, 2000, from Columbia University, Institute for Learning Technologies, Web site:
<http://www.ilt.columbia.edu/publications/papers/newwine1.html>

- If a document is contained within a large and complex Web site (such as that for a university or a government agency), identify the host organization and the relevant program or department before giving the URL for the document itself. Precede the URL with a colon.

Electronic copy of a journal article, three to five authors, retrieved from database

Borman, W. C., Hanson, M. A., Oppler, S. H., Pulakos, E. D., & White, L. A. (1993). Role of early supervisory experience in supervisor performance. *Journal of Applied Psychology*, 78, 443-449. Retrieved October 23, 2000, from PsycARTICLES database.