

APA Style Guide

The American Psychological Association (APA) provides a method for source documentation that is used in most social sciences courses. The social sciences place emphasis on the date a work was created, so most APA citation involves recording the date of a particular work in the physical text. The date is usually placed immediately after the author's name in the "References" page at the end of an essay.¹

How to Create an APA In-Text Citation²

When using APA format, 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.

If you are directly quoting from a work, you will need to include the author, year of publication, and the page number for the reference (preceded by "p.") as follows:

According to Jones (1998), "Students often had difficulty using APA style, especially when it was their first time" (p. 199).

Jones (1998) found "students often had difficulty using APA style" (p. 199); what implications does this have for teachers?

She stated, "Students often had difficulty using APA style" (Jones, 1998, p. 199), but she did not offer an explanation as to why.

If you are paraphrasing an idea from another work, you only have to make reference to the author and year of publication in your in-text reference, but APA guidelines encourage you to also provide the page number (although it is not required) as follows:

According to Jones (1998), APA style is a difficult citation format for first-time learners.

APA style is a difficult citation format for first-time learners (Jones, 1998, p. 199).

If within the same paragraph, you are citing the same source twice, but are citing from different pages of this source, you may do one of the following for the second citation:³

1. If in the first citation, the author's name only appears in the parenthetical, like this:

(Jones, 1998, p.199)

you must repeat the author and the date and page number for the second entry, as follows:

(Jones, 1998, p.199).

Text adapted from:

¹ "Citation Style Chart." *The Purdue OWL*, Purdue U Writing Lab, owl.english.purdue.edu/media/pdf/20110928111055_949.pdf.

² Paiz, Joshua M., et al. "In-Text Citations: The Basics." *The Purdue OWL*, Purdue U Writing Lab, 11 Nov. 2014, owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/2/.

³ *Publication Manual of the APA*. 6th ed., APA, 2010, p. 174.

2. If in the first citation, the author's name is part of the sentence, as follows:

According to Jones (1998)

And the date has already been mentioned, the second parenthetical can be replaced with just a page, like this:

(p.199).

How to Create an APA Reference List⁴

Your reference list should appear at the end of your paper. Each source you cite in the paper must appear in your reference list; likewise, each entry in the reference list must be cited in your text. The following is a sample APA References page:⁵

References

Cummings, J. N., Butler, B., & Kraut, R. (2002). The quality of online social relationships. *Communications of the ACM*, 45(7), 103-108.

Hu, Y., Wood, J. F., Smith, V., & Westbrook, N. (2004). Friendships through IM: Examining the relationship between instant messaging and intimacy. *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication*, 10, 38-48.

Tidwell, L. C., & Walther, J. B. (2002). Computer-mediated communication effects on disclosure, impressions, and interpersonal evaluations: Getting to know one another a bit at a time. *Human Communication Research*, 28, 317-348.

Underwood, H., & Findlay, B. (2004). Internet relationships and their impact on primary relationships. *Behavior Change*, 21(2), 127-140.

⁴ Paiz, Joshua M., et al. "Reference List: Basic Rules." *The Purdue OWL*, Purdue U Writing Lab, 1 Mar. 2013, owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/05/

⁵ Text adapted from "APA Sample Paper." *The Purdue OWL*, Purdue U Writing Lab, owl.english.purdue.edu/media/pdf/20090212013008_560.pdf.

Notes for creating your APA References Page:

- Start the References page on a new page, center the title References (do not bold, underline, or use quotation marks for the title.)
- Double space all citations, but do not skip spaces between entries. Indent the second and subsequent lines of citation by .5 inches.
- Alphabetize the entries by the last name of the first author of each work. Authors' names are inverted (last name first); give the last name and initials for all authors of a particular work.
- To learn more about what information to provide for each type of source, consult:
 - 1) The APA Publication Manual
 - 2) The APA website, at:
<http://www.apastyle.org/>
 - 3) The section of **Purdue OWL**'s website devoted to APA citation, at:
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/06/>