

Basic APA Style Guide for Research Papers

Luzerne County Community College Library

Revised October 2011

APA (from the American Psychological Association) is a style system for documenting research papers and preparing bibliographies. This guide provides basic examples for the APA style. For more complete information, consult the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th edition) or the website, *APA Formatting and Style Guide*, prepared by the staff at the Open Writing Lab of Purdue University: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01>

In order to avoid plagiarism, you must properly credit the sources you use. You should indicate, by means of a notation system, specifically where you got your information. Citations are always required when direct quotes are used, when original ideas or research are summarized, and when facts, such as statistics, are noted.

Examples of References

The conventions of sequence, punctuation, and capitalization in the APA style for the references section can most easily be illustrated with examples. Commonly used formats are below. According to the sixth edition of the APA manual, when available, you should include the DOI (digital object identifier) for print and electronic sources in the reference entry. The DOI number is placed at the end of the entry without ending punctuation (e.g., doi: 0000000/000000000000).

Book with One Author

Author, A. A. (Publication year). *Title of work: Capital letter also for subtitle*. Location: Publisher.

eBook with One Author

Author, A. A. (Publication year). *Title of work: Capital letter also for subtitle*. Location: Publisher.
Retrieved from <http://Web address>.

An Article or Chapter in an Edited Book

Author, A. A. & Author, B.B. (Publication year). Title of chapter. In A. Editor & B. Editor (Eds.), *Title of Book: Capital letter also for subtitle* (pages of article/chapter). Location: Publisher.

An Article in a Newspaper

Author, A.A. (Year, Month Day) Title of article. *Title of Newspaper*, pages.

An Article in a Magazine

Author, A.A. (Year, Month Day) Title of article. *Title of Magazine*, volume number. pages.

An Article in a Journal

Author, A.A. & Author, B.B. (Publication year) Title of article. *Title of Journal*, volume number (issue number), pages.

A Webpage

Author, A. A. (Year, Month Day of publication or revision). *Title of document*. Retrieved from <http://Web address>. (If there is no publication date for the web document, use (n.d.) for no date and add a retrieval date -- i.e., Retrieved Month Day, Year, from <http://web address>.)

An Article from an Electronic Resource Database

When referencing material accessed through an electronic resource database, such as *Academic Search Premier*, cite the relevant publication information as you would for an article from a newspaper, magazine, or journal. Only provide the database information if the article is difficult to find in print.

Author, A. A., Author, B. B., & Author, C. C. (Publication year). Title of article. *Title of Periodical*, volume number (issue number), pages.

Examples of In-Text Citations

In the body of the research paper, an in-text citation typically gives the author of the source, the year of publication, and a page number of the reference in parentheses. See the following examples.

In the United States, depressive disorders affect an estimated 9.5% of the adult population annually (Ford-Martin & Wienclaw, 2008, p. 339).

The elderly depressed are chronically undertreated (Solomon, 2003, p. 189).

"A lot of older people aren't sure what depression is and assign its symptoms to normal aging," says Dr. Mark Miller, co-author of *Living Longer Depression Free* (Kuchment, 2006, p. 62).

Example of an APA References Page

At the end of the research paper, a list of references provides publication information about the sources; the list is alphabetized by authors' last names (or by titles for works without authors).

References

- Adams, S., Miller, K., & Zylstra, R. (2008). Pharmacologic management of adult depression. *American Family Physician*, 77(6), 785-792.
- Belmaker, R., & Agam, G. (2008). Major depressive disorder. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 358(1), 55-68.
- Ford-Martin, P.A. & Wienclaw, R.A. (2008). Depression and depressive disorders. In L. Fundukian & J. Wilson (Eds.), *The gale encyclopedia of mental health* (pp. 339-342). Detroit: Thomson Gale.
- Goldberg, I. (2007, July 8) *Dr. ivan's depression central*. Retrieved from <http://www.psycom.net/depression.central.html>.
- Gurung, R. A. R. (2001). Depression. In *Encyclopedia of sociology* (2nd ed., Vol. 1, pp. 648-657). New York: Macmillan Reference USA. Retrieved from <http://go.galegroup.com>.
- Kuchment, A. (2006, January 30). Beating back the blues. *Newsweek*, 147, 62-63.
- Solomon, A. (2003). *The noontday demon: An atlas of depression*. New York: Scribner.