The Writing Center of Green River Community College Presents An APA Documentation Module
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APA Citations

Introduction

The following introductory information is from the University of Wisconsin web site:

APA style is primarily used in the social sciences, so if you’re taking a psychology or sociology course, chances are you'll be expected to write papers in APA style. Your instructor will let you know whether you need to use APA style for your papers.

In any paper that refers to other sources, you MUST cite these sources properly. Failure to do so could result in charges of plagiarism by your instructor.

Like all documentation styles, APA style provides a standard system for giving credit to others for their contribution to your work. It's what we call a "parenthetical" documentation style, meaning that citations to original sources appear in your text. This allows the reader to see immediately where your information comes from, and it saves you the trouble of having to make footnotes or endnotes.

The APA style calls for three kinds of information to be included in in-text citations. The author's last name and the work's date of publication must always appear, and these items must match exactly the corresponding entry in the references list. The third kind of information, the page number, appears only in a citation to a direct quotation.

The following example of an APA in-text citation is from A Writer’s Reference, 5th ed:

Hart (1996) wrote that some primatologists “wondered if apes had learned Language, with a capital L” (p. 109).

In this example, which is the model for the basic format for a quotation, the author’s name is included in the signal, so it is not included in the parentheses.

As mentioned in the introduction and shown in the example, the APA documentation style focuses primarily on author and date, but depending on the type of source used, the form of the in-text citation will vary. You may determine the type of form used by looking up your source in any of the APA in-text citation model lists that are available, including the one on dianahacker.com.
Other examples of APA in-text citations, also found in *A Writer’s Reference*, include the following:

A work with two authors:

Kanzi’s linguistic development was slower than that of a human child (Greenfield & Savage-Rumbaugh, 1990, p. 567).

A work with an unknown date:

Attempts to return sign-language-using apes to the wild have had mixed results (Smith, n.d.).

Exercise 1

You have just learned about three types of APA in-text citations. Now it is your turn to locate other categories of APA in-text citations and the format rules for those categories. Look in any of the following locations to find this information and then write it in the blank spaces.

Online sources

[http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc](http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc) (online source for *A Writer’s Reference*)

[http://www.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar](http://www.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar) (Capital Community College’s site)

[http://owl.english.purdue.edu](http://owl.english.purdue.edu) (Purdue University’s Online Writing Lab)

Books

*A Writer’s Reference*, 5th edition
After locating a new category in one of the above sources, first name the new category of APA citation and then write an example of its format by filling in the parentheses.

### Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Form example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unknown author</td>
<td>(&quot;Chimps,&quot; 1999)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Category                  | Form example    |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>___________________________</td>
<td>(________________)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Category                  | Form example    |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>___________________________</td>
<td>(________________)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Category                  | Form example    |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>___________________________</td>
<td>(________________)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Category                  | Form example    |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>___________________________</td>
<td>(________________)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Category                  | Form example    |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>___________________________</td>
<td>(________________)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exercise 2

Using the online and print sources from the previous exercise, look at the format examples below and identify the type of APA citation for which the format is used. Write the citation type in the blank next to the format.

Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Format</th>
<th>Citation type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Terrace, Petitto, Sanders, &amp; Bever, 1979)</td>
<td>A work with 3-5 authors</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. (p. 109)  

2. (as cited in Booth, 1990, p. A3)  

3. (Becker, 1992; Jones, 1968)  

4. (National Aeronautics and Space Administration [NASA], 1996)  

5. (Krait & Cooper, 1994)
Exercise 3

A. Using any of the suggested lists and explanations for comparison, look at the following list of citations and mark the blank with a “C” if they are correct and an “I” if they are incorrect.

Note: For the purposes of this exercise, the citations and periods are bold. Do not bold your own citations.

1. These results have been confirmed independently (Smith, 1999).
   _________  

2. Potera argues that Internet addiction affects thousands. 1
   _________  

3. Toufexis says that “substances swamping the newly smitten are chemical cousins of amphetamines” (1984)
   _________  

4. Elliott et. al. (1992) include 17 authors whose work has never been published.
   _________  

5. Another engaging graphic can be found on the Project Zero home page (http://pzweb.harvard.edu/default.htm).
   _________  

B. Use this space to suggest corrections to any of the incorrect citations that you found in the above exercise.

1. ________________________  

2. ________________________  

3. ________________________  

4. ________________________  

5. ________________________
Exercise 4

Now it’s time for you to try creating your own citations. Using the information that you have about citations, complete the citations inside of the parentheses.

1. This quotation appears on page 203 in 1990.

   Binkley reports reductions in SAD-related “depression in 87 percent of patients” (_________________________).

2. This is the same quote, but the sentence is different.

   A recent report of reductions in SAD-related “depression in 87 percent of patients” reverses the findings of earlier studies (______________________________).

3. This source is from page 3 of a 1991 article by William Krait and David Cooper.

   One report describes 2,289 occurrences (______________________________).

4. This uses the same as above but includes the authors in the sentence

   The results Krait and Cooper (______________________________) report describes 2,289 occurrences (______________________________).

5. This quote is from a 1990 book by Doug Peacock.

   “The signaling between these two dominant animals was not obvious” (______________________________).
Here are a few quotes to be used for the remainder of the exercises

“Before moving into the area of public victory, we should remember that effective interdependence can only be built on a foundation of true independence.” Stephen R. Covey, The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, page 185, 2002

“The biggest single cause of griz maulings is the result of people running and trying to climb trees. It is too late to climb a tree once the bear is aware of you. Government handouts are wrong on this point. Forget about trees. A griz in Denali was clocked at 41 miles per hour.” Doug Peacock, Grizzly Years, 1990

“The general apathy that the United States had demonstrated toward the AIDS epidemic had only deepened the distrust between gays and heterosexuals. Gays could understandably suspect the intentions of the federal government that had spent the past four years doing as little as possible to thwart the epidemic.” Randy Shilts, And the Band Played On: Politics, People, and the AIDS Epidemic, 1987, page 541

Exercise 5

Create four of your own sentences with citations using the quotes above.

1. __________________________________________ (______________________).  
2. __________________________________________ (______________________).  
3. __________________________________________ (______________________).  
4. __________________________________________ (______________________).
APA References List

Your Reference List

Information about formatting your reference list can be found in many different sources, including A Writer’s Reference and dianahacker.com. What follows are some general guidelines for formatting your reference list, which is from the OWL Purdue web site.

Your reference list should appear at the end of your paper. It provides the information necessary for a reader to locate and retrieve any source you cite in the body of the 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.

Your references should begin on a separate page from the text of the essay under the label References (with no quotation marks, underlining, etc.), centered at the top of the page.

Basic Rules

- Authors’ names are inverted (last name first); give the last name and initials for all authors of a particular work unless the work has more than six authors. If the work has more than six authors, list the first six authors and then use et al. after the sixth author’s name to indicate the rest of the authors.
- Reference list entries should be alphabetized by the last names of the first author of each work.
- If you have more than one article by the same author(s), single-author references or multiple-author references with the exact same authors in the exact same order are listed in order by the year of publication, starting with the earliest.
For example:

References


Basic Citation Forms for APA References Lists

Just as the in-text citations have different forms for different types of sources, the citations in a references list also have different forms, depending on the type of source. In addition, just as the in-text citation forms are listed many places online and in print, the lists of citation forms for works cited lists can also be found in many places. The following partial list is from *A Writer’s Reference, 5th ed.*

**Multivolume work:**


**Article in a newspaper:**


**Basic format for a book:**

Exercise 6

You have just learned about three types of citations for an APA references list. Now it is your turn to locate other categories of APA reference list citations and the format rules for those categories. Look in any of the following locations to find this information and then write it in the blank spaces.

Online sources

http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc  (online source for A Writer’s Reference)
http://www.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar  (Capital Community College’s site)
http://owl.english.purdue.edu  (Purdue University’s Online Writing Lab)

Books

A Writer’s Reference, 5th edition
MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers
The Bedford Reader, 9th ed.

After locating a new category in one of the above sources, first name the new category and then write an example of its format by filling in the parentheses.

1. Category __________________________________________

   Form ____________________________________________
                                                  ____________________________________________
For this part of the exercise, the category will be written and you are to locate that category in one of the suggested lists and find the appropriate form for it.

1. Review
Form ___________________________ ____________________________
2. Article from an online periodical
Form

3. Translation
Form

4. Article from a database
Form

5. Article in a journal paginated by issue
Form
Exercise 7

Now that you have a sense of the different forms for APA citations in the references list, look at the following list and decide whether the citations are correctly written. If they are correct, mark a “C” in the blank. If they are incorrect, describe why in the blank. Note: the citations are numbered for the exercise, but should not be numbered in your list.


Answer Key

Answers to Exercise 1 will vary.

Answers to Exercise 2

1. Author named in signal phrase.
2. Indirect source
3. Two or more works
4. Organization as author
5. A work with two or more authors

Answers to Exercise 3

1. Correct
2. Incorrect (No parentheses, no date)
3. Incorrect (no period)
4. Correct
5. Incorrect (title and paragraph # in parentheses)

Answers to Exercise 4

1. (p. 203, 1990)
2. (Binkley, p. 203, 1990)
3. (Krait & Cooper, p. 3, 1991)
4. (1991), (p. 3)
5. (Peacock, 1990)

Answers to Exercise 5 will vary.

Answers to Exercise 6, part A, will vary.

Part B.

2. This varies depending on whether a print version is available.


Answers for Exercise 7

1. Incorrect (missing date of publication)
2. Incorrect (no “In”)
3. 
4. Correct
5. Correct