CITING USING APA STYLE

- APA (American Psychological Association) style requires double spacing throughout the paper’s text and reference page.
- All citations in the reference page must be in the hanging indent format with the first line flush to the left margin and all other lines indented.
- Single spaces are placed after all punctuation (periods, commas, colons, semicolons) in the reference page and in the text.
- Underlines are not used. Italics are regularly used.
- All the information on this sheet was gathered from the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 5th edition.

The examples below illustrate how to cite different resources on the reference list using the American Psychological Association (APA) style.

AUTHORS The following examples are ways to cite resources with one author or multiple authors. These examples can be applied to any resource (books, articles, electronic source).

One Author Last name followed by first initial


Two to Six Authors Last names and initials – use “&” instead of “and”


Six or More Authors List the first six authors and use “et al.” (meaning: and others) to indicate more authors. Remember, do not put a period after “et” in et al.

**ARTICLES IN JOURNALS (Print and from an electronic database)**

**Basic Format**


**Article in Journal Paginated by Volume (Print form)**

Journals that are paginated by volume begin with page one in issue one, and continue numbering issue two where issue one ended, etc.


**Article in Journal Paginated by Issue (Print form)**

Journals paginated by issue begin with page one every issue; therefore, the issue number gets indicated in parentheses after the volume. The parentheses and issue number are not italicized or underlined.


**Article in from a database**

For articles from obtained from a database, cite it just as you would an article in print form, like above, and include the full name of the database and when the article was retrieved.

**BOOKS**

**Basic format**


**Book chapter**

For book chapters, include the title of the chapter and use “pp.” to indicate page numbers.


**REPORT FROM A WEB SITE**

**Basic format**

Do not put a period at the end of the web address.


CITING WITHIN THE TEXT

APA utilizes a system of brief referencing in the text of a paper, whether one is paraphrasing or providing a direct quotation from another author’s work. Citations in the text usually consist of the name of the author(s) and the date of publication. The complete citation would appear in the alphabetical References list at the end of the paper. Below are examples of paraphrasing another’s work:

Parenthetical Citation
As metaphors for the workings of nature, Darwin used the tangled bank, the tree of life, and the face of nature (Gould, 1989).

Author As Part of the Narrative
Gould (1989) attributes Darwin’s success to his gift for making the appropriate metaphor.

Author and Date As Part of the Narrative (acceptable but not preferred)
In a 1989 article, Gould explores some of Darwin’s most effective metaphors.

Direct Quotations – Always provide the author, year and specific page of the quote.

Below are two applications of correct APA style:

Direct Quotation with Parenthetical Citation
Darwin used the metaphor of the tree of life “to express the other form of interconnectedness–genealogical rather than ecological” (Gould, 1989, p. 14).

Direct Quotation with Name of Author in the Text
Gould (1989) explains that Darwin used the metaphor of the tree of life “to express the other form of interconnectedness–genealogical rather than ecological–and to illustrate both success and failure in the history of life” (p. 14).

Each of the above five sample sentences above would lead readers of a correctly formatted APA style paper to this complete citation in the References list at the end of the paper:


Natural History, 89(3), 14-21.

LONG QUOTATIONS

- Long quotations are 40 words or more.
- Place the quotation in a free standing block.
- Do not use quotation marks.
• Maintain double-spacing throughout the quote.
• Start the quotation on a new line, indented five spaces from the left margin.
• Type the entire quotation on the new margin.
• The parenthetical citation should come after closing punctuation mark.

Example:

Jones’s (1998) study found the following:

Students often had difficulty using APA style, especially when it was their first time citing sources. This difficulty could be attributed to the fact that many students failed to purchase a style manual or to ask their teacher for help. (p. 199)

Not finding what you need?

If you can’t find an example of the item you need to cite, consult the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 5th edition.

There is a copy at the Information Desk at the library. A copy is also available in the library’s collection in the Lower Level. The call number is BF76.7 .P83 2001.

Or check out this web site: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/