

AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (APA) CITATION STYLE

INTRODUCTION

American Psychological Association (APA) style is one of several types of standardized citation formats. APA is the standard citation format in the social sciences, in comparison to the Modern Language Association (MLA) style, which is used primarily in the humanities; the Chicago Manual of Style (CMS), the preferred style in the disciplines of history, philosophy, and the arts; and other styles closely associated with specific professions. The APA manual is currently in its seventh edition. We strongly encourage you to use APA 7 citation style when working in studies of the social sciences if you need to cite formal works such as journal articles, books, and professionally made multimedia. Exercise your personal discretion when citing works that may be less formal, such as social media posts, YouTube videos, and casual conversations.

A CLOSER LOOK

In academic works, citations are important for showing readers how current arguments are informed by supporting materials from previous research. Proper citation enables those reading or viewing academic works to trace content and argument to earlier sources, and for this reason, some form of citation is usually required for a paper or project submitted for academic peer review. APA can be difficult because the formatting it specifies is extremely detailed and not always intuitive. For example, if you are citing an idea but not directly quoting the work, your in-text citation has to include only the author(s) and year of publication, whereas direct quotations require the page number(s) as well. APA is a widely used citation format, but it is not uncommon to see people citing works using APA style incorrectly. In its seventh edition, however, APA style is considerably more intuitive and easier to use than it was in previous editions.

CITATION EXAMPLES (ADAPTED FROM OWL.ENGLISH.PURDUE.EDU)

Below are typical APA 7 citation formats.

Single Author

In-text: According to Mitchell (2015), life can be “a long and mazy road, full of surprises, much like APA style” (p. 13).
References: Mitchell, J. D. (2015). The art of being a detective. *Investigators Monthly*, 11, 4–15.

Two Authors

In-text: According to Mitchell and Swevo (2015), life can be “a long and mazy road ..., much like APA style” (p. 23).
References: Mitchell, J. D., & Swevo, I. (2015). Best detective of all time. *Investigators Monthly*, 12, 12–25.

Three to Twenty Authors

In-text: According to some (Mitchell et al., 2015), life can be “a long and mazy road ..., much like APA style” (p. 33).
References: Mitchell, J. D., [list here all authors in same style as for two]. (2015). Best detective team of all time. *Investigators Monthly*, 13, 20–45.

For more than 20 authors: List the first 19 authors, then place an ellipsis (instead of an ampersand) and the last name and initial(s) of the last author in the author list:
“... Oxley-Chamberlain, L. ... Regner, S. (2015).”

Article in a Journal

Author, A. A., Author, B. B., & Author, C. C. (Year). Article title. *Title of Journal*, volume number(issue number), pages.

Article in a Magazine

Author, A. A., Author, B. B., & Author, C. C. (Year, Month [e.g., "2015, May"]). Title of article. *Title of Magazine*, volume number(issue number), pages.

Article in a Newspaper

Author, A. A. (Year, Month and day [e.g., "2015, May 1"]). Title of article. *Title of Newspaper*, pages.

Article from an Online Periodical with an Assigned DOI

Author, A. A., & Author, B. B. (Year). Title of article. *Title of Periodical*, volume/issue number, pages. DOI [as in 0000000/00000000 or <http://dx.doi.org/10.0000/0000>]

Article from an Online Periodical without an Assigned DOI

Author, A. A., & Author, B. B. (Year). Title of article. *Title of Periodical*, volume number. Retrieved [Month day, year], from <http://www.journalhomepage.com/full/url>

CITATION RESOURCES

- [General APA Guidelines](#) by Purdue Online Writing Lab, Purdue University
- [Purdue OWL YouTube Channel](#) by Purdue University
- [Purdue OWL YouTube Channel - APA Playlist](#) by Purdue University
- [APA Style](#) by the American Psychological Association
- [Citation Machine](#)
- [Citefast](#)
- [EasyBib](#)
- [EndNote](#)
- [Zotero](#)