Examples of APA-Style In-Text Citations & Reference List Entries

What Should the Reference List Include?

Regardless of source type, every entry in your reference list (APA term for bibliography) should include as many of these elements as possible:

- Author’s last name and first initial
- Date of publication
- Title of the work (e.g., title of a book, reference article, periodical article, webpage)
- Title of the container work (e.g., magazine title, website title)
- Volume and issue number (for a periodical, if applicable)
- Page numbers (for a periodical, if applicable)
- Place of publication (if given; not typical for a periodical)
- Publisher’s name (if given; not typical for a periodical)
- Name of database or website (if applicable and not given elsewhere)
- URL (web address) or DOI (document object identifier)

The way these elements are formatted, and the order in which they are listed, may vary from one citation style to another, but you should do your best to identify and include each one. However, if you cannot find a particular element (such as an author’s name), leave it off – don’t make something up!

It is likely that in other classes, you may be asked to create citations that are formatted differently, or that include other elements, such as the date of access for online sources. Always follow the style guidelines specified by your teacher or academic field.

What’s Different About APA Style?

The main differences between APA style and MLA or Chicago style are:

- Only use an author’s first initial, not the full first name
- The date of publication appears after the author’s name, not after the publisher’s name
- Do not use quotation marks for an article title

About This Guide

This guide includes, and simplifies when necessary, the American Psychological Association (APA) style of formatting for the most commonly used source types for psychology and science papers at USN. The examples given here may not match entirely with the citations formatted by the databases, by the Pocket Style Manual, by NoodleTools, or by another citation guide. The discrepancies among all these different citation generators was the primary reason for the creation of this guide.

Use this document as your guide if your teacher requests it, and use the Pocket Style Manual as a backup if you need to cite a source type that is not listed here. Yes, you may need to edit citations formatted by a database or by NoodleTools so that they match the examples given here. Ask your teacher or a librarian if you have any questions!
Examples of APA-Style In-Text Citations & Reference List Entries

Formatting In-Text Citations

An in-text citation:
- should easily lead your reader to the same source in your reference list by using the first word or phrase that appears in the reference list: generally either the author's last name or the title of the work (if no author is listed)
- gives the page number where the specific information was found (if it is from a paginated source, such as a book)
- appears every time you use information from a specific source
- typically appears at the end of a sentence, before the period

EXAMPLES:
…end of the sentence (Rosenberg, 2011, p. 165).
…end of the sentence (Gourevitch & Morris, 2008, p. 23).
…end of the sentence (Konijn, 2008, p. 124).
…end of the sentence (Cojanu, 2013, p. 180).
…end of the sentence (Wagner, Murphy, & De Korne, 2012).
Examples of APA-Style In-Text Citations & Reference List Entries

Formatting Entries in the Reference List

A reference list entry:
- has a **hanging indent** (the first line goes to the margin; subsequent lines are indented)
- **appears only once** in the reference list
- is **organized alphabetically** by the first word of the entry (usually the author’s last name, but if no author is listed, this could also be the first word of the title, excluding “a,” “an,” and “the”)

**EXAMPLES:**
Examples of APA-Style In-Text Citations & Reference List Entries

BOOKS

Reference list entries for books should include:
- author’s last name and first initial
- date of publication
- book title
- place of publication
- publisher’s name
- page number (for in-text citation only)

Book with one author:

IN-TEXT CITATION
…end of the sentence (Rosenberg, 2011, p. 165).

REFERENCE LIST

Book with two or more authors*:

IN-TEXT CITATION
…end of the sentence (Gourevitch & Morris, 2008, p. 23).

REFERENCE LIST

*If the work has eight or more authors:
List the first six authors, followed by an ellipsis (three dots), then the last author’s name. In the in-text citation, use the first author’s name followed by “et al.”

Book with organizational author:

IN-TEXT CITATION

REFERENCE LIST
Examples of APA-Style In-Text Citations & Reference List Entries

ENCyclopediaAS/REFERENCE WORKS

Reference list entries for encyclopedia entries should include:
- author’s last name and first initial (if listed)
- date of publication
- title of entry
- title of encyclopedia/reference work
- name of publisher, database, or website (if not given elsewhere)
- one of the following:
  - document object identifier (DOI) OR
  - name of database or website and URL
- page number (if using a paginated source; for in-text citation only)

Entry in a print reference title, author listed:

IN-TEXT CITATION
…end of the sentence (Konijn, 2008, p. 124).

REFERENCE LIST

Reference entry in an online database, no author listed:

IN-TEXT CITATION

REFERENCE LIST
Examples of APA-Style In-Text Citations & Reference List Entries

PERIODICAL ARTICLES

Reference list entries for periodical articles should include:
- author’s last name and first initial
- date of publication
- title of article
- title of magazine, journal, newspaper, etc.
- volume and issue numbers (if given)
- page number (if using a paginated source)
- one of the following:
  - document object identifier (DOI) OR
  - name of database or website and URL

Article from an online database or website with a DOI:

IN-TEXT CITATION
…end of the sentence (Cojanu, 2013, p. 180).

REFERENCE LIST

Article from an online database or website without a DOI:

IN-TEXT CITATION

REFERENCE LIST
Examples of APA-Style In-Text Citations & Reference List Entries

WEBSITES

Reference list entries for websites should include:

- author’s last name and first initial
- date of publication
- title of webpage/article
- title or publisher of website (unless the same as author)
- URL

Website:

IN-TEXT CITATION
…end of the sentence (Wagner, Murphy, & De Korne, 2012).

REFERENCE LIST