APA BASICS

In-text citations

Basic format:

More often than not, it will be: (Author’sLastName, year published, page #). For example, (Smith, 2005, p. 21) or (Williams, 1987, pp. 52-53).

Punctuation:

The period comes AFTER the parenthetical citation (the only exception is with block quotes, where the period comes at the end of the sentences you are citing). You cannot include a page number if one is not listed. Also, URLs should not be used in the in-text citations. They will be used in the reference page.

Quotations:

Ex: Many people believe “dreams are mysterious windows into the mind” (Stevens, 2013, p. 14).

A writer can also introduce a quote with the author’s name and put the year directly after.

Ex: Jones (2003) found “children love to play with pets” (p. 302).

In APA, writers do not always quote, but rather paraphrase.

Ex: According to Brown (1988), there are many people who suffer from dementia.

Note: Paraphrase still must be cited.

Indirect Quotes:

If you want to quote what another source has quoted in their text, you would format it like this:


You would not need to put Williams in your References page.

Use of author’s last name:

Once you’ve cited the author’s last name the first time, you only need to cite the page number for each subsequent reference. Cite each separate reference, even if it occurs on the same page as the initial citation. If you use a different author, and then go back to your previous one, you must write their last name again.

2 Authors: (Waller & Hudgins, 2009) Up to 5: (James, Winston, Sunny, Peverall, & Hosk, 1980)
6 or more: (Clemons et al., 2007)

Common Entries for a Works Cited page

General Format:

Author’sLastName, A.A. (Year of Publication). “Title of article or chapter in quotes.” Title of larger work it comes from:

Whether book, journal, website, etc. City of Publication: Publisher. Page numbers.

(The entries are double-spaced, use of a hanging indent for each line after the first, and are organized alphabetically. If information is not available, skip it in the citation. However, use n.p. if no publisher name is available and n.d. if no publishing date is given—this would be especially applicable for a website.)

Books (normal, edition, translation, anthology/collection, work in an anthology):


Journal Articles (format, article in print journal, article from an online database):


http://dx.doi.org/xx.xxx/yyyy


Retrieved from

http://www.articlehomepage.com/full/url/

An article on a website:


Retrieved from http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/

Additional Resources

Purdue Online Writing Lab’s “APA Formatting and Style Guide,”

(Use this resource for information on how to cite anything else, or anything else related to APA for that matter.)
Shaw University Writing Center, Corner of Blount and Lenoir (Academic Success Center); APA guides on shelf