APA Citation Quick Guide

This guide will help you format commonly used citations in APA format, 6th edition. This guide was created using the authoritative source, the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th edition. For more help, refer to a copy of the Manual at your local campus library.

Citations within the text of the paper or manuscript

Source with one author
Insert the surname of the author and year of publication at the appropriate point in the text. Cognitive functioning of gifted children begins at an early age (Pearlman, 2002). If the author or year appears in the text, cite only needed information. Pearlman (2002) tested hundreds of elementary school children.

Source with two authors
Cite both authors every time the reference occurs in the text. The concept of identity has been discussed in literature (Burke & Stets, 2009).

Source with three to five authors
Cite all authors the first time the reference occurs. In subsequent citations, cite only the last name of the first author followed by et al. First reference within text: Design is integrated with daily life (Shove, Watson, Hand, & Ingram, 2008). Subsequent references: Consumer interests in design have been investigated (Shove et al., 2008).

Anonymous source
When an author is designated “Anonymous,” include the word Anonymous followed by a comma and the publication date. Research is a vital part of academic life (Anonymous, 2009).

Source with no author listed
Include first few words of the work’s title and year. If the title is of an article, chapter or webpage, use quotation marks: It is reported that numerous adolescents study long hours (“School and teenagers,” 2007). If the title is of a book, periodical, brochure or report, use italics: Young people reported a preference for staying up late (Handbook of adolescents, 2006).

Citations in bibliographies or reference lists
When constructing a reference list or bibliography, arrange all entries in alphabetical order by the surname of the first author.

Journal or Magazine Articles

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Article from a journal with continuous pagination

Article from a journal with non-continuous pagination

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