

INTRODUCTION

American Psychological Association (APA) style is one of several types of standardized citation formats. APA format is typically the standard citation format in the social sciences, versus Modern Language Association (MLA) style, which is used primarily in the humanities. The APA manual is currently in its sixth edition. We strongly encourage you to use APA citation when citing formal works. Examples of formal works include journal articles, books, and professionally made multimedia. Exercise your personal discretion when citing works that may be less formal, such as social media, YouTube videos, and casual conversations.

A CLOSER LOOK

In academic works, citations are important to show readers how current arguments are informed by supporting materials from previous research. Proper citation enables those reading (or viewing) academic works to accurately trace argumentation back to original sources. Some form of citation format is usually required for a paper or project that is submitted for academic peer review. APA style can be a tricky because the rules can change depending on how you use a source. 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 in the parenthesis. However, if you use a specific quotation from the work, you will have to include the author(s), year, and page(s) where the quotation can be found. In reality, while APA is a widely used citation format, it's not uncommon to see people citing works using APA style incorrectly.

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

Below are citation formats for some of the more widely used sources:

Single Author

Last name will be first followed by initials. Format remains the same no matter the source of the work.

Mitchell, J. D. (2015). The art of being a detective. *Investigators Monthly*, 11, 4-15.

Two or More Authors

Mitchell, J. D., & Servo, T. (2015). Best detective of all time. *Investigators Monthly*, 12, 12-25.

Three to Seven Authors

Use commas to separate authors' names; last author name will be preceded by an ampersand.

Robot, C. T., Mitchell, J. D., & Servo, T. (2015). Best detective team of all time. *Investigators Monthly*, 13, 20-45.

Article in Journal Paginated by Volume, Issue

Author, A. A., Author, B. B., & Author, C. C. (Year). Title of article. *Title of Periodical*, volume number(issue number), pages.

Article in a Magazine

Author, A. A., Author, B. B., & Author, C. C. (Year, Week of Publication). Title of article. *Title of Periodical*, volume number(issue number), pages.

Article in a Newspaper

Author, A. A. (Year, Date of Publication). Title of article. *Title of Newspaper*, pages.

Article from Online Periodical with DOI Assigned

Author, A. A., & Author, B. B. (Year). Title of article. *Title of Journal*, volume number, pages. doi:00000000/00000000 or <http://dx.doi.org/10.0000/0000>

Article from Online Periodical without a DOI Assigned

Author, A. A., & Author, B. B. (Year). Title of article. *Title of Journal*, volume number. Retrieved from <http://www.journalhomepage.com/full/url>

CITATION RESOURCES

There are many books, websites, and computer software products that help authors accurately use MLA citation format. Below is not an exhaustive list, but rather a good starter guide.

Books

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association. 6th ed. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association, c2010. ISBN: 1433805596

Websites

- [Purdue Owl APA Style Guide](#) - Exhaustive guide to APA formatting and rules. The Purdue OWL also has both a [YouTube Channel](#) and a [video series](#) specifically related to APA formatting.
- [APA Style](#) - An official guide from the American Psychological Association
- [Citation Machine](#) - Citation-generating website that allows for different formats and types of citations.
- [Citefast](#) - Another citation-generating website.
- [Scholar Space by EasyBib](#) - Great website with easy navigation to citation information.

Software

- [EndNote](#) - Cross-platform citation manager that has a social media function for open collaboration.
- [Mendeley](#) - Free cross-platform citation manager that also has a searchable database of references.
- [Papers](#) - Pay cross-platform citation manager. Able to download papers from 25+ databases.
- [Zotero](#) - Free cross-platform citation manager that also has Linux functionality.