
This crib sheet is a guide to the APA style and is not intended to replace the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th edition. Only selected examples were chosen for inclusion here. For other examples, see the printed manual.

Journal article with DOI assigned


Journal article without DOI assigned, found in library database


Magazine article without DOI assigned, found in library database


Magazine article without DOI assigned, with no author, found in library database


Article freely available from the publisher (This is an example of the page number not given)


Journal article with DOI assigned and more than seven authors


Edited book


Book (two authors)


Article or chapter in an edited book (print)

Chapter or section in an Internet document


Doctoral dissertation, from a commercial database


Online reference work


Video Blog Post


Online document with government author


Personal communications

Personal communications may be things such as email messages, interviews, speeches, and telephone conversations. Because the information is not retrievable they should not appear in the reference list. They should look as follows: Example: S. Shirley (personal communication, September 20, 2008) indicated that … or In a recent interview (S. Shirley, personal communication, September 20, 2000) I learned that ….

Citation of a work discussed in a secondary source

To cite secondary sources, refer to both sources in the text, but include in the References list only the source that you actually used. For example, suppose you read Fielder (2008) and would like to paraphrase the following sentence within that article: Braun (2008) defined bat speed as "the ability to catch up to a baseball with a moving bat" (p. 11).

In this case, the in-text citation would be: (Braun, 2008, as cited in Fielder, 2008).

Fielder (2008) would be fully referenced within the list of References.

Reference citations in text

To refer to an item in the list of references from the text, an author-date method should be used. That is, use the surname of the author (without suffixes) and the year of the publication in the text at appropriate points.

Example: Researchers have indicated that more is expected of students in higher education (Hudson, 2001, p. 8) and secondary education (Taylor & Hornung, 2002, p.31).

One author

Issac (2001) indicated in his research..

In a recent study, research indicates (Isaac, 2001)

Two or more authors
When a work has two authors, always cite both names every time the reference occurs. For works with three, four, or five authors, cite all authors the first time the reference occurs. In subsequent citations, include only the last name of the first author followed by et al.

Specific parts of a source
(Yount & Molitor, 1982, p. 19)
(Cooper, 1983, chap. 4)

When a work has no authors
Cite in text the first few words of what appears first for the entry on the list (usually the title) and the year.
(“New Student Center,” 2002)