Library FAQ: APA Citation Style

When you reference another’s work in your own papers or essays, you need to cite that author’s work. APA Citation Style is typically used to cite work in social sciences and education fields.

What is Plagiarism?

When you take someone else’s work, words, and/or ideas and then use them as your own, you are committing plagiarism. Besides this traditional definition, plagiarism also includes:

- Re-arranging an author’s words (paraphrasing) and using it without a citation
- Using someone else's ideas without citing the source
- Using a photograph or image and not including a citation
- Submitting the same paper for two different assignments

Sometimes you may even plagiarize accidentally. Luckily there are plenty of resources to prevent that from happening.

How Do I Cite in APA Style?

When creating a citation, you will need two things:

- In-text or parenthetical citations – located within the body of your paper
- Works Cited or Bibliography – reference list that appears at the end of your paper.

There are some basic rules to follow when creating a Works Cited in APA Citation Style:

- Your References page should start on a separate page at the end of your research paper.
  - Page should be labeled References in the center of the page, and should NOT be underlined, bold, or have quotation marks.
- Use 1-inch margins and same header as previous pages.
- All citations should be double-spaced.
- The second and each subsequent line of a citation should have a hanging indent (0.5 inches).
- The citations in your reference list need to be in alphabetical order by author last name.
- Use full journal title – capitalize major words.
- When you are referring to books, chapters, articles, or Web pages, only capitalize the first letter of the first word of a title or subtitle.
- Italicize titles of longer works such as books and journals.
- Do not italicize, underline, or use quotation marks around titles of shorter works, such as journal articles or essays.
- Remember to format your title page correctly. See the example below:

For more details on citing specific sources, continue to the “APA Citation Reference List” page.

**What Are Parenthetical Citations?**

First off, **parenthetical citations = in-text citations**.

In-text citations are a brief reference in the text of your essay that indicates the source you consulted. These should be used when you borrow ideas, paraphrase or directly quote someone else’s work.

**Mark unchanged words with quotes**

> Despite Einstein's achievements in his education, he universally left a bad impression and was unable to get the references needed to secure a job.

To create an in-text citation, you will need the author(s) last name(s), the date the work was published, and for direct quotations, the exact page number in the source where you found the quote or idea. Commas should be used to separate the parts of the in-text citation. In-text citations are generally formatted as: *(Lastname, Date) and (Lastname, Date, p. #) OR (Smith, 2000) and (Smith, 2000, p. 60)*. The sentence punctuation should be placed **outside** the parentheses.

An example of this is:

*Imperialism is “the practice, the theory, and the attitudes of a dominating metropolitan center ruling a distant territory” (Said, 2000, p. 8).*
In-text citations can also be used in another way. If you mention the author before the quote, then you only need a page number in the parentheses. Check out this example:

According to Edward W. Said, imperialism is defined by “the practice, the theory, and the attitudes of a dominating metropolitan center ruling a distant territory” (2000, p. 8).

For additional examples of in-text citations of non-traditional sources, please check out the attached “APA Citation Reference List.”

If you have questions about creating citations, here are some resources to help you out:

- Purdue University’s Online Writing Lab (OWL): APA Style
- APA Style Guide
- Credo InfoLit Modules
  - Video: APA Citation Style
- Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association
- Garrett College Instructional Librarian – reference@garrettcollege.edu
- Garrett College Tutoring Center
- Your professor
APA Citation Reference List

Articles

Article found in a database or in print, with one author:


In-Text Citation

(Last name, Year) OR (Last name, Year, p. #)

(Pajares, 2001) OR (Pajares, 2001, p. 28)

Article found on the open web, with one author:

Lastname, F. M. (Year). Title of article. *Title of Journal*, volume if available (issue if available), pages if available. doi: OR Retrieved from URL


In-Text Citation

(Last name, Year) OR (Last name, Year, paragraph/page #)

(Cohen, 2009) OR (Cohen, 2009, para. 7)

Article (from the open web) with two authors:


In-Text Citation

(Last names, Year) OR (Last names, Year, paragraph/page #)


Article with three to six authors:


**In-Text Citation**

(Last names, Year) TO (First Last name et al., Year) OR (Last name, Year, p. #)

(Jutras, Vinay, & Castonguay, 2002) TO (Jutras et al., 2002) AND (Jutras et al., 2002, p. 48)

**More than seven authors? List the first six authors and the last author.**


**Books**

**Book with one author:**


**In-Text Citation**

(Last name, Year) OR (Last name, Year, p. #)

(Bok, 2010) OR (Bok, 2010, p. 10)

**Books with multiple authors:**

The format follows the author format as listed under articles.

**An edited book:**


**In-Text Citation**
Web Sites

Web site with one author:

Lastname, F. M. (Date published). Title of page. Retrieved from URL


In-Text Citation

(Last name, Date) OR (Last name, Date, para. #)

(Lopez, 2000) OR (Lopez, 2000, para. 5)

Web site with a corporate or organizational author:

Organization name. (Date published). Title of page. Retrieved from URL


In-Text Citation

(Organization name, Date) OR (Organization name, Date, para. #)

(Positive Psychology Center, 2007) OR (Positive Psychology Center, 2007, para. 3)

Images

Image from an online source with a creator listed:

Creator, F. M. (Date created). Title of image [Description of image]. Retrieved [date] from URL


In-Text Citation

(Last name, Year)
(Swanbrow, 2008)

**Image from an online source with no creator listed:**

Title of image [Description of image]. (Date created). Retrieved [date] from URL

**In-Text Citation**

(Title of image, Year)

**Image from a print source with a creator listed:**

Creator, F. M. (Date created). Title of image. [Continue with title of book or article as appropriate.]

(Last Name, Year)

If you have any questions, please contact the Instructional Librarian at 301-387-3022 or reference@garrettcollege.edu.

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http://guides.frederick.edu
https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/
https://uri.libguides.com/