The American Psychological Association (APA) citation style is often used when writing and documenting information sources in the social sciences.

It is highly recommended to consult the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 7th ed.*, 2020 for additional information on APA style. The APA *Publication Manual* is located at your campus library. You can also refer to the APA Subject Guide ([http://subjectguides.nscc.ca/APA](http://subjectguides.nscc.ca/APA)) located on the NSCC Libraries website and/or library staff for further assistance.

**When to Cite**

Cite the work of those individuals whose ideas, theories, or research have directly influenced your work. A direct quotation reproduces words exactly as they appear in another work. An indirect quotation or paraphrase restates another’s ideas in your own words.

If a paraphrase continues for several sentences, cite it in your first sentence. Do not repeat the citation if your writing is clear that the same work is being paraphrased in subsequent sentences. Reintroduce the citation if the paraphrase continues into a new paragraph.

**Author-Date Citation System**

The APA citation style requires an in-text citation within the body of the paper and briefly identifies the cited work by its author and date of publication.

The in-text citation has a corresponding entry in the reference list at the end of the paper. A reference entry usually has four elements. Each element answers a question:

- **Author**: Who is responsible for this work?
- **Date**: When was this work published?
- **Title**: What is the work called?
- **Source**: Where can I retrieve this work?

Some works have a digital object identifier (DOI). A DOI is a unique alphanumeric string that identifies content and provides a persistent link to its online location. See Section 9.34: *When to include DOIs and URLs*.

**Formatting & Organizing Your Paper**

- Insert a page number, flush right, in the header of every page.
- Use a font that is accessible, i.e. 11-point Calibri, 11-point Arial, or 12-point Times New Roman.
- Double space the entire paper and reference list, with 1-inch margins on all sides.
- Indent the first line of every paragraph in the body of your paper by 0.5 inches.
- Label the Reference page *References* capitalized, in bold, and centered at the top of the page.
- Use a hanging indent for references.
- Organize references alphabetically by the surname of the first author.

Consult the Copyright @ NSCC Subject Guide ([https://subjectguides.nscc.ca/copyright](https://subjectguides.nscc.ca/copyright)) for more information.

Books

BASIC FORMAT

Reference Entry
Author, A. A. (Year of Publication). Title of work: Subtitle of work. Publisher.

In-Text
Direct Quote (Author’s Last Name, Year, Page or Paragraph number)
Indirect (Paraphrase) Quote (Author’s Last Name, Year)

BOOK, ONE OR TWO AUTHORS

Print
Reference Entry

In-Text
(Palmer & Short, 2010)

eBook
Reference Entry

In-Text
(Stephenson, 1985)

BOOK, THREE OR MORE AUTHORS

Reference Entry

In-Text
(Seeley et al., 2011)

CHAPTER IN AN EDITED BOOK

Reference Entry
Author, A. A., & Author, B. B. (Year). Title of the book chapter. In A. A. Editor & B. B. Editor (Eds.), Title of the book (2nd ed., pp. #–#). Publisher. DOI or URL

(Seeley et al., 2011)
Secondary Sources

Reference Entry

In-Text
In Warkinton’s study, (as cited in Roberts et al., 2014), children’s cognitive growth and development...

Note Primary sources report original content. Secondary sources refer to content reported in another source. Cite secondary sources sparingly. The primary source is preferred in scholarly practice. If using a secondary source, acknowledge the original work in text. Provide a reference citation for the secondary source (the source you have in hand) in the reference list.

Journal Articles

**BASIC FORMAT**

Reference Entry
Author, A. A., & Author, B. B. (Year of Publication). Title of article. Title of Journal, volume number(issue number), page range. DOI or URL

**JOURNAL ARTICLE, PRINT**

Reference Entry

In-Text
(Winslow, 2020)

**JOURNAL ARTICLE WITH DOI**

Reference Entry

In-Text
(Johns & Mewhort, 2009)
JOURNAL ARTICLE WITH URL

Reference Entry

In-Text
(Krcil, 2020)

MAGAZINES & NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

BASIC FORMAT

Reference Entry
Author, A. A., & Author, B. B. (Year, Month Day or Season of Publication). Title of article. Title of Magazine or Newspaper, volume number (issue number), page range. DOI or URL

MAGAZINE ARTICLE, PRINT

Reference Entry

In-Text
(Bergeson, 2019)

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE, PRINT

Reference Entry

In-Text
(McKenna, 2011)

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE, ONLINE

Reference Entry

Updated October 1, 2020
In-Text
(Wilson, 2020)

Websites, Internet Message Boards, Electronic Mailing Lists & Social Media

BASIC FORMAT


Note Although most online sources can be updated, some are designed to change (e.g., dictionary entry, Twitter profile, Facebook page), or reflect information that changes over time (e.g., UpToDate article and work on a website that updates frequently). Provide a retrieval date in the reference entry when citing an unarchived work that is likely or meant to change.

WEBSITE, ENTIRE

In-Text
KidsPsych is a wonderful interactive website for children (http://www.kidspsych.org)

Note To mention a website in general, do not create a reference list entry or an intext citation. Instead, include the name of the website in the text and provide the URL in parentheses.

WEBSITE, ORGANIZATION OR GOVERNMENT

Reference Entry

In-Text
1st citation (American Kennel Club [AKC], 1994)
Subsequent citations (AKC, 1994)

WEBSITE, NO AUTHOR OR DATE

Reference Entry

In-Text
(Walking and Hiking in Ireland, n.d.)

Updated October 1, 2020
Audiovisual Works

VIDEOS, ONLINE (STREAMING VIDEOS)

Reference Entry

In-Text
(Seven Dimension, 2014)

VIDEOS, ONLINE (YOUTUBE, VIMEO)

Reference Entry

YouTube. https://youtu.be/deiEY5Yq1qI

In-Text
(Fogarty, 2016)

TED TALKS

Reference Entry
Pelling, A. (2016, February). *This scientist makes ears out of apples* [Video]. TED Conferences.

https://www.ted.com/talks/andrew_pelling_this_scientist_makes_ears_out_of_apples

In-Text
(Pelling, 2016)

AUDIO WORKS (MUSIC)

Reference Entry: Single Song or Track

In-Text
(Beyoncé, 2016)

PODCAST

Reference Entry

https://www.npr.org/series/423302056/hidden-brain

In-Text
(Vedantam, 2015-present)

*Updated October 1, 2020*
VISUAL WORKS

Images with a CC0 license or images in the public domain do not require a reference entry. They are free to use without attribution unless including a reference entry is a requirement of your assignment.

For more information on copyright and images, refer to the Image tab on the Copyright @NSCC Subject Guide at https://subjectguides.nscc.ca/copyright/images

WORK OF ART

Painting in a Gallery

Reference Entry

In-Text
(Thompson, 1915)

Image, Online

Reference Entry

In-Text
(Taylor, 2020)

Photograph, Online

Reference Entry

In-Text
(Leibovitz, 1989)

POWERPOINT SLIDES OR LECTURE NOTES

Reference Entry

In-Text
(Mack & Spake, 2018)
BASIC FORMAT: MAP, CHART, FIGURE, TABLE, GRAPH

Author, A. (Date). Title [Format]. Publisher.

Map, Single

Reference Entry

In-Text
(Bujak & Donohoe, 1980)

Map, Online

Reference Entry

In-Text (Wise, 1857)

SOCIAL MEDIA

Note  Cite only original content from social media sites such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Tumblr, LinkedIn, etc.

Tweet

Reference Entry

In-Text
(White, 2018)

Twitter profile

Reference entry

In-Text
(APA Style, n.d.)
Facebook post

Reference entry

https://www.facebook.com/ScienceNOW/videos/1015508587605108/

In-Text
(News From Science, 2018)

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Personal Communication (Letters, emails, personal interviews, telephone conversations, memos, instant messenger, Skype)

See Section 8.9 Personal Communications for more information.

In-Text  (K. L. Brennan, personal communication, July 2, 2010)

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Traditional Knowledge or Oral Traditions of Indigenous Peoples

See Section 8.9 Personal Communications for more information.

If the information has been recorded and is recoverable by readers, cite it in the text and include a reference entry in the correct format for that type of source.

To describe Traditional Knowledge or Oral Traditions that are not recorded (and therefore are not recoverable by readers), provide as much detail in the in-text citation as is necessary to describe the content and to contextualize the origin of the information.

- Provide the person’s full name and the nation or specific Indigenous group to which they belong, as well as their location or other details about them as relevant, followed by the words “personal communication,” and the date of the communication.
- Provide an exact date of correspondence if available; if correspondence took place over a period of time, provide a more general date or a range of dates. The date refers to when you consulted with the person, not to when the information originated.
- Ensure that the person agrees to have their name included in your paper and confirms the accuracy and appropriateness of the information you present.

Example: We spoke with Anna Grant (Haida Nation, lives in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, personal communication, April 2019) about traditional understandings of the world by First Nations Peoples in Canada. She described . . .

Capitalize most terms related to Indigenous Peoples. These include names of specific groups (e.g., Mi’kmaq, Maliseet, Cherokee, Cree, Ojibwe) and words related to Indigenous culture (e.g., Creation, the Creator, Elder, Oral Tradition, Traditional Knowledge, Vision Quest). The capitalization is intentional and demonstrates respect for Indigenous perspectives. (American Psychological Association, 2020, pp. 260-261)
Sample Paper: In-Text Citations

Gray wrote (as cited in Richard, 1997, p. 4) “no other coal-field in North America has the drift origin characteristics possessed by the Albion-Stellarton coal seams.” The thickness of the coal seams varies, and it changes from being clean to being mixed with shale. Gray also noted (as cited in Richard, 1997, p. 6) that it is “carbonaceous, gaseous, and prone to spontaneous combustion.”

During the first two years of the war, the coal industry was in decline (Earle, 2001). The Quebec markets were disrupted when ships for carrying coal were reassigned to helping with the war effort. Cheaper coal from the United States flooded the markets of central Canada. Output increased in late 1915 when Canadian steel plants began manufacturing munitions (Ryan, 1992).

Sample Paper: Corresponding Reference List

References


- Start the reference list on a new page
- Use a hanging indent
- Center and bold the title References
- Alphabetize the entries
- Double space

Updated October 1, 2020