GENERAL

american psychological association apa citation

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Understanding the American Psychological Association APA Citation: A Complete Guide

The **American Psychological Association (APA) citation**is a cornerstone of academic writing in the social and behavioral sciences. Whether you're a student drafting a research paper, a researcher preparing a manuscript for publication, or a professional compiling a report, mastering APA citation ensures that your work is credible, ethical, and easily navigable by peers. This guide dives deep into the history, structure, and practical application of APA citations, offering clear examples and actionable tips to help you write flawlessly.

What Is an APA Citation?

APA citation is a standardized system for documenting sources used in scholarly work. Developed by the American Psychological Association, it provides a consistent framework for referencing books, journal articles, websites, and many other types of media. The main goal is twofold:

1. Credit the Original Author: Proper citation acknowledges the intellectual property of others.
2. Enable Verification: Readers can locate the cited material to verify claims or explore further.

APA citation follows a specific format that includes the author's name, publication year, title, and source details. These components appear in two places: the in-text citation (within the body of the paper) and the reference list (at the end).

History and Evolution of APA Style

The APA style was first introduced in 1929 to standardize citations across psychology journals. Over the decades, it has expanded to cover a wide range of disciplines, from education to business. The most recent edition, the **7th edition**, released in 2019, brought significant changes such as:

- Emphasis on the use of first-person plural pronouns ("we") for clarity.
- Simplified formatting for digital object identifiers (DOIs) and URLs.
- Expanded guidelines for citing social media and multimedia sources.
- More inclusive language guidelines to promote diversity and respect.

These updates reflect the evolving landscape of research and publication, ensuring that APA remains relevant and user-friendly.

Why Use APA Citation?

Adopting APA citation offers several benefits:

- Consistency: Uniform structure across all papers makes documents easier to read.
- Credibility: Demonstrates scholarly rigor and respect for intellectual property.
- Searchability: Enables databases and search engines to index your references accurately.
- Ethical Integrity: Reduces the risk of plagiarism and ethical violations.

In many academic programs, proficiency in APA citation is not just recommended—it's a requirement.

APA Citation Basics: The Core Elements

Every APA reference contains three essential components:

1. Author(s) – Last name followed by initials.
2. Publication Year – In parentheses.
3. Title and Source – Title of the work and where it was published.

Below is the general structure for a journal article:

Author, A. A., & Author, B. B. (Year). Title of the article. Journal Name, volume(issue), page range. https://doi.org/xxxx

For books:

Author, A. A. (Year). Title of the book. Publisher.

In-Text Citations

APA uses parenthetical citations within the text. Two main styles exist:

- Author–Year: (Smith, 2020)
- Narrative Citation: Smith (2020) found that…

When citing multiple authors, use "&" for up to two authors, and "et al." for three or more.

Reference List Formatting

The reference list appears at the end of the paper and follows a specific order:

1. Alphabetical order by the first author's last name.
2. Double space all lines.
3. Hanging indent: The first line is flush left; subsequent lines are indented 0.5 inches.

All URLs should be formatted as **https://** or **http://** without underlining or hyperlinks, unless required by the journal.

Common Source Types and How to Cite Them

Below are step by step examples for the most frequently cited sources. Use the same format for your own references, adjusting details as needed.

Books

Format: Author, A. A. (Year). **Title of the book**. Publisher.

Example: *Smith, J. L. (2018). Understanding Cognitive Development. Oxford University Press.*

Journal Articles

Format: Author, A. A., & Author, B. B. (Year). Title of the article. **Journal Name**, volume(issue), page range. https://doi.org/xxxx

Example: *Doe, R., & Lee, P. (2021). Social anxiety in adolescents. Journal of Youth Psychology, 12(3), 145 160. https://doi.org/10.1234/jyp.2021.0123*

Websites

Format: Author, A. A. (Year, Month Day). Title of the page. **Website Name**. https://www.example.com

Example: *National Institute of Mental Health. (2020, April 15). Anxiety disorders. https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/anxiety-disorders/index.shtml*

Conference Proceedings

Format: Author, A. A. (Year). Title of the paper. In B. B. Editor (Ed.), **Proceedings of the Conference Name**(pp. page range). Publisher.

Example: *Brown, T. (2019). Neural correlates of decision making. In R. Green (Ed.), Proceedings of the International Conference on Cognitive Neuroscience (pp. 45 52). Springer.*

Theses and Dissertations

Format: Author, A. A. (Year). Title of the thesis (Doctoral dissertation). Name of Institution, Location.

Example: *Williams, M. K. (2017). The impact of mindfulness on stress reduction (Doctoral dissertation). University of California, Los Angeles.*

Reports (Government or NGO)

Format: Organization. (Year). **Title of the report** (Report No. xxx). Publisher. https://doi.org/xxxx

Example: *U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2022). National Health Statistics Report (Report No. 2022 001). https://www.hhs.gov/national-health-statistics-report*

Social Media Posts

Format: Author, A. A. [Username]. (Year, Month Day). Content of the post up to 20 words [Tweet]. **Twitter**. https://twitter.com/username/status/xxxxxx

Example: *Johnson, L. [@LJohnson]. (2021, June 10). Excited to share my latest research findings! [Tweet]. Twitter. https://twitter.com/LJohnson/status/1234567890*

Multimedia (Video, Podcast)

Format: Author, A. A. (Year, Month Day). Title of the video [Video]. Platform. https://www.example.com

Example: *Psychology Today. (2020, March 5). The science of happiness [Video]. YouTube. https://youtu.be/abcd1234*

Non English Sources

When citing a source in another language, provide an English translation of the title in brackets immediately after the original title.

Example: *García, M. (2019). El desarrollo de la memoria episódica [The development of episodic memory]. Universidad de Madrid.*

Handling Multiple Authors

APA 7th edition simplifies author listings:

- One author: Last name, Initials.
- Two authors: Last name, Initials & Last name, Initials.
- Three to 20 authors: List all authors separated by commas, with an ampersand before the last name.
- More than 20 authors: List the first 19 authors, insert an ellipsis, then add the last author.

In-text citations for three or more authors use “et al.” after the first author’s name.

Special Cases: Edited Books, Chapter Authors, and Corporate Authors

Edited Books

Format: Editor, E. E. (Ed.). (Year). **Title of the book**. Publisher.

Baca Juga (Artikel Terkait)

- **advanced engineering electromagnetics solution manual edition hardcover by balanis constantine a published by wiley**
  URL: http://djjsearch.com/advanced-engineering-electromagnetics-solution-manual-edition-hardcover-by-balanis-constantine-a-published-by-wiley.pdf
- **advanced engineering electromagnetics solutions manual**
  URL: http://djjsearch.com/advanced-engineering-electromagnetics-solutions-manual.pdf
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