

# quicktips

## APA DOCUMENTATION STYLE: REFERENCE LIST

Most social science disciplines use American Psychological Association (APA) style to cite sources. APA-style documents include brief in-text citations (see quicktip on “APA Documentation Style: In-Text Citations”) in combination with a more detailed listing of sources in a separate reference list at the end of a document.

The requirements for what to include in reference lists are designed so that another researcher could find and refer to the same sources you’ve included. Below are guidelines adapted from Diana Hacker and Nancy Sommers’s *A Writer’s Reference*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. (2011), that show the basic principles of most forms of APA citation. For more details, see the *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. (2010).

### Book

- 1 Author (individual)
- 2 Year of publication
- 3 Title and Subtitle
- 4 City of publication
- 5 Publisher

1 2 3  
Black, L. J. (1998). *Between talk and teaching: Reconsidering the writing conference*. Logan, UT: Utah State University Press.  
4 5

### Article in a periodical (print)

- 1 Author (individual)
- 2 Year of publication
- 3 Title of article
- 4 Name of Periodical
- 5 Volume and issue numbers
- 6 Page numbers

1 2 3  
Breuch, L. K. (2005). The idea(s) of an online writing center: In search of a conceptual model. *The Writing Center Journal*, 25(2), 21–38.  
4 5 6

### Section in a web document (page from a website)

- 1 Author (institutional)
- 2 Date of publication, most recent update or no date (n.d.)
- 3 Title of document, page or section
- 4 In
- 5 Title of website
- 6 Retrieved from
- 7 URL of document (if there is no DOI)

1 2 3 4 5  
Cornell Information Technologies. (2009). Using Wikipedia. In *Research guide for students*. Retrieved from <https://digitalliteracy.cornell.edu/tutorial/dp13222.html>  
6 7

### Article with a digital object identifier (DOI)

- 1 Author (multiple)
- 2 Date of publication
- 3 Title of article
- 4 Name of periodical
- 5 Volume and issue numbers
- 6 Page numbers
- 7 DOI

1 2 3  
Cameron, L., & Deignan, A. (2006). The emergence of metaphor in discourse. *Applied Linguistics*, 27(4), 671-690. doi:10.1093/applin/aml032  
4 5 6 7

Here is an example of what an APA-style reference page typically looks like. Using standard formats for your entries enhances your credibility with academic readers, and alphabetizing your list helps fellow researchers quickly locate the sources that you refer to in the body of your text. For more formats & source types, visit <http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/> or see the *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. (2010).

APA-style reference lists are evenly double-spaced, with one-inch margins all around. Entries are alphabetical by author, or, if no author, by title. Every entry begins flush left; additional lines are indented 5 spaces.

Label your page "References" in the center of the first line.

Note that in general...

- authors' names are in reverse order;
- only the first letters of authors' first names are given;
- "and" is written as "&"
- only the first title word (and the first subtitle word) is capitalized;
- the retrieval date for online sources is needed only if the content cited is likely to be changed or updated (as in Wikis, for example).

References

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| selection from an edited book  | Blumenfeld, W. J. (2000). Heterosexism. In M. Adams, W. J. Blumenfeld, R. Castaneda, H. Hackman, M. L. Peters, & X. Zuniga (Eds.), <i>Readings for diversity and social justice</i> (pp.261-266). New York: Routledge.   |
| ✎ journal article from database with three authors and Digital Object Identifier | Chambers, D., Tincknell, E., & van Loon, J. (2004). Peer regulation of teenage sexual identities. <i>Gender &amp; Education, 16</i> (3), 397-415. doi:10.1080/09540250042000251515   |
| ✎ journal article with no DOI retrieved from a database                          | Elze, D. E. (2003). Gay, lesbian, and bisexual youths' perceptions of their high school environments and comfort in school. <i>Children &amp; Schools, 25</i> (4), 225-239. Retrieved from <a href="http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/nasw/cs?">http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/nasw/cs?</a> |
| ✎ article from online encyclopedia   | Hayes, C. (2002). Identity politics. In E. N. Zalta (Ed.), <i>The Stanford encyclopedia of philosophy</i> (November 2007 ed.). Retrieved from <a href="http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/identity-politics/">http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/identity-politics/</a>                                  |
| ✎ electronic reference with corporate author                                     | Human Rights Watch. (2001, May). <i>Hatred in the hallways</i> . Retrieved from <a href="http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/usalbg01.pdf">http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/usalbg01.pdf</a>  |
| motion picture   | Linton, K. (Director). (2006). <i>Follow my voice: With the music of Hedwig</i> [Motion Picture]. United States: Rainlake Productions.   |
| unpublished paper  | Merkle, D. G. (1997, January). <i>Inclusive science education: What does it look like?</i> Paper presented at Annual Meeting of the Association for the Education of Teachers in Science, Cincinnati, OH.  |
| government document  | Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-193, § 9 Stat. 2353-2354 (1997).  |
| book with edition  | Rubin, A., & Babbie, E. (2001). <i>Research methods for social work</i> (4 <sup>th</sup> ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thompson Learning, Inc.  |
| book with two editor(s)  | West, R., & Lay, F. (Eds.). (2000). <i>Subverting masculinity: Hegemonic and alternative versions of masculinity in contemporary culture</i> . Amsterdam: Rodopi.  |

✎ = electronic resource