



## CITING SOURCES: APA STYLE

This handout gives examples of the style of documentation recommended by the APA (American Psychological Association). When using the examples, be sure to follow the punctuation and format exactly as shown: put periods, commas, and colons in the same places. Use one space after a colon, comma, and period. If a citation is more than one line, use double spacing with a hanging indent (see examples on page 2). For information on MLA style, see the Library's handout **CITING SOURCES: MLA STYLE**.

### References

All sources cited in a paper are listed on a separate page with the heading **References**. This page follows the last page of your paper, and should be numbered.

Each source is listed alphabetically by the last name of the author or editor, or by the first substantive word of the title if there is no author or editor. (Disregard articles "A", "An" and "The".) If there are two or more items by the same author, put them in order by publication date with the earliest date first. Entries are double-spaced. The first line of each entry is not indented, but the rest of the entry is (this is called a hanging indentation). Publication dates are put in parentheses, and the title and volume number in italics. (If the material is part of a larger work such as a magazine or web site, only the title of the *complete work* is italicized).

Note: Capitalize only the first word of the title and of the subtitle, if any, and proper nouns.

**Book with a single author:** Each entry should include the author's last name and first initial(s), publication date, title of the work, place of publication (city, two digit state), and publisher.

Hemingway, E. (1952). *Old man and the sea*. New York, NY: Scribner.

**Article in a reference book:** Each entry should include the author's last name and first initial (if the article is signed), publication date, title of the article, title of the work, volume number, inclusive page numbers, place of publication, and publisher.

Hutson, J. H. (2000). Franklin, Benjamin. In *World book encyclopedia* (Vol. 7, pp. 486-492).

Chicago, IL: World Book, Inc.

**Magazine or journal article:** Each entry should include the author's last name and first initial(s), year of publication (followed by the month and day if available), title of the article, title of the journal or magazine, volume number (if available), and inclusive page numbers. Note that the title and the volume number are both italicized.

Waller, D. (2001, December 31). Ready for the 50-year-war? *Time*, 158, 28.

**Article or chapter in an edited book:** Each entry should include the article or chapter author, if available, and the title or the article or chapter. Next type the word In and include all of the book information, including the article or chapter page numbers.

Berry, D. (2005). Road warrior. In R. DiYanni (Ed.), *Fifty great essays* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.) (pp. 61-64). New York, NY: Pearson/Longman.

**Articles from a database:** Magazine articles which are reproduced in an electronic database such as Expanded Academic Index or Academic Universe are cited just like print articles, with the addition of a retrieval date statement and the name of the database used to access the article.

Cazeneuve, B. (2001, December 3). Inside olympics. *Sports Illustrated*, 95. 94. Retrieved January 16, 2002, from Expanded Academic Index A.S.A.P database.

Scalon, P. (2003, October 1). Student online plagiarism: How do we respond? *College Teaching* 51, 161. Retrieved October 6, 2004, from eLibrary database.

**Web page:** Each entry should include the author's last name and first initial(s), if available; the date of publication (or the date last updated, or the date retrieved); the title or a description of the document; the title of the complete work (if the page is part of a larger site); other relevant information; retrieval date statement; URL. It is best to give the URL of the specific page cited, rather than the URL of the home page for the site. Do not put a period after the URL. If necessary, URLs may be split immediately following a slash.

Brown, S. J. (2001, May 27). Genetic evidence (Introduction). *Neanderthals and modern humans*. Retrieved January 15, 2002, from <http://neanderthal-modern.com/genetic1.htm>

Virginia Declaration of Human Rights. (1776, June 12). *University of Oklahoma Law Center*. Retrieved January 11, 2002, from <http://www.law.ou.edu/hist/vadeclear.html>

## Citations in the text

Citations in the text are a basic part of every research paper. Anyone reading your paper should be able to look up your sources and check them. Any time you use a direct quote, paraphrase something you have read, or use a specific idea or fact from your reading, you need to cite the source.

APA style uses parenthetical citations to refer the reader to the specific item in the list of references. Citations are placed in the body of your paper, following the specific part of the text to which they apply. If the parenthetical citation is at the end of a sentence, place it before the period. Use one space after a colon, comma, and period. To cite a specific book or article, use the author's last name, followed by the year of publication. If there is no author listed, use the first few words of the title in quotes. To cite a direct quote or give credit for something such as a

chart or graph, include the specific page number. If a page number is not available (web pages, electronic articles) use the paragraph number.

- **Citing a book or article:**

The article thoroughly covers the topic (Waller, 2001).

- **Citing specific information or a quote:**

“The canary was psychotic” (French, 1963, p. 25).

- **Citing a specific quote from a web page:**

The company stock rose 45% this quarter (Brown, 2001, para. 3).

- **Citing a source with no author:**

Jeffrey started to walk at the age of five (“Childhood Stories,” 345).

### **For more information about APA style:**

The following book in the Library’s reference area cover additional types of citations:

*Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*      Ref BF 76.7 .P83 2001