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APA (sixth edition) Citation Style Guidelines
NAIT Library

Citation styles are standardized systems for crediting and citing sources you've used for your research paper or assignment. Your program or degree will require you to use a specific citation style. The American Psychological Association (APA) citation style is one of many different citation styles. Other style options include MLA (Modern Language Association), CSE (Counsel of Science Editors) and Vancouver.

You must give credit to every source that you use in your research paper. Brief citations included in the text of your paper are called “in-text” citations (or “parenthetical” citations because they are in parentheses, or brackets); APA in-text citations are usually made up of the author, date and page number(s) of the source cited. Full citations are always included in the APA References list at the end of your paper; full citations include all the citations elements (for example a book citation includes the author, title, edition, place, publisher and date). Each in-text citation must appear in the References list, and each entry in the References list must come from an in-text citation.

These guidelines will help you to cite your research sources according to the APA style. Included are examples of both in-text citations and References list citations.

These guidelines are based on the sixth edition (2010, second printing) of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association and the FAQs on the APA website (www.apastyle.org/faqs.html#3).

Important: Always ask your instructor what citation style is required for your assignment.

Overview of Recent APA Changes

The sixth edition of the APA Publication Manual includes two major changes that affect citing your sources:

1. When citing books published in the U.S., include the U.S. Postal Service abbreviations for the state of publication. If the publishing city is outside the U.S., include the city and country. Do not abbreviate the country.

   E.g. Upper Saddle River, NJ
   Los Angeles, CA
   Toronto, Canada

2. When citing articles or e-books from library databases, include the digital object identifier (DOI) in the citation (e.g. doi: 10.1057/palgrave.kmrp.8500141) and do not include the URL, date of retrieval or the name of the database. If the DOI is not available, include the persistent URL of the article or e-book (e.g. http://libezproxy.nait.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db =a9h&AN=22299882&site=ehost-live&scope=site).
Guidelines for In-Text Citations & Reference Lists

In-Text Citations
- Include the author’s last name, the year of publication, and the page number (for quotes), either as part of the text of your paper or in parentheses. For example: (Smith, 2011, p. 17).
- If a source has no author or editor, use a few words of the title instead.
- Each in-text citation must lead to the full reference list entry for that source.

Reference Lists
- The references page is usually located at the end of your written document. However, tables and/or appendices, if used, come after the references page.
- The references page lists only the sources you cited in your paper. Every reference list entry should have at least one corresponding in-text citation.
- Center the heading, References, at the top of the page.
- Alphabetize entries in the References list by the authors’ last names.
- Author's first names are NOT included in the entries; include only the initials of given name(s). For example: Wells, A.
- If a work has no author, place the title first and use that to alphabetize it within reference list. If there is no date, use (n.d.). For a full template explaining how to format your citation when information is missing, visit APA’s reference template PDF: http://blog.apastyle.org/files/how-to-cite-something-you-found-on-a-website-in-apa-style---table-1.pdf
- The date of publication appears immediately after the first element of the citation (usually the author’s name). For example, Wells, A. (2005).
- The references list is double-spaced within AND between citation entries.
- Use the hanging indent format: each entry begins flush left, and any additional lines are indented one-half inch (or five spaces).
- Capitalization matters; only the first word of titles and subtitles is capitalized, in addition to proper names. However, each significant word in the titles of journals, newspapers and magazines (for example, Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences) is capitalized and italicized. Titles of articles from journals are NOT italicized.
- Use only the name of the publishing company (do not include "Company" or "Inc." etc.).
- Do NOT insert a hyphen when dividing a web address (URL) at the end of a link.
- URLs/web addresses should NOT be hyperlinks. Use plain black text.
References


Blueprints

If the blueprints were accessed through a private engineering/architectural company, follow the format below and modify retrieval information to: Retrieved from Name of Interviewee, Company, personal communication.

Elements required and general format:

Author(s). (Year, Month Day). Title of drawing (Drawing/Plan No. ##, if provided) [Technical drawing]. Retrieved from URL of drawing.

Reference list examples – Blueprints

Blueprint retrieved from online:


Unpublished blueprint received from individual:


In-text citation examples – Blueprints

…as indicated by the standard for concrete slope protection (Alberta Transportation, 1999)…

OR:

Alberta Transportation’s standards indicate that … (1999).
Books

- Print
- Electronic (eBook)
- Article or Chapter in Anthology or Edited Book

Print Book

Elements required and general format:

Author(s) or editor(s). (Year). *Title of book: Subtitle of book* (Edition). City, State abbreviation or Country of publication: Publisher.

Reference list examples - Book

One author:


One editor:


Multiple authors:


Multiple editors:

In-text citation examples - Book

One author:

Smyth (2008) indicated that “insert quote here” (p. 40).

... as one researcher reported (Smyth, 2008, p. 40).

This case indicated that “insert quote here” (Smyth, 2008, p. 40).

Two authors:

Research by Smyth and Hanson (2007) indicated “quote here” (p. 59).

The researchers concluded the same facts (Smyth & Hanson, 2007, p. 59).

The researchers (Smyth & Hanson, 2007) concluded “insert quote here” (p. 59).

Three to five authors:


... as concluded by the researchers (Blaine, Hobbs, Adamson, Berry & Kal, 1993, p. 45).
In subsequent citations, use only the first author’s name followed by “et al.” (Blaine et al., 1993, p. 45).
Electronic Book (eBook)

Elements required and general format:

Author(s) (if editor, include (Ed.) after name). (Year). Title of eBook: Subtitle of eBook (Edition)

[Type of eReader version]. Retrieved from URL of book

Reference list examples – eBook

If using a handheld eReader, include information about this version in square brackets.

One editor, no DOI:


http://www.knovel.com.libezproxy.nait.ca/web/portal/browse/display?_EXT_KNOVEL_DI
SPLAY_bookid=2441

One author, no DOI (eBook read on Kindle Fire):

Glazer, H. (2011). High performance operations: Leverage compliance to lower costs, increase

profits, and gain competitive advantage [Kindle eBook version]. Retrieved from


In-text citation examples – eBook

When citing an eBook from a handheld eReader, do not use device-specific page numbers, as these can vary. Use only real page numbers that reflect the numbering of print books. If the real page numbers are unavailable, leave them out.

One editor, real page numbers available:

Kutz (2009, p. 260) illustrated that …

… as was demonstrated previously (Kutz, 2009, p. 261).
Article or Chapter in an Anthology or Edited Book

You cite an article, book chapter, or case study found in a source in both the references list and in an in-text citation.

Elements required and general format:

Author(s) or editor(s) of the chapter or entry or case study. (Year of book). Title of chapter or entry or case study. In First initial. Last name, & First initial. Last name (Eds.), Title of book (pp. xx-xx). City, State abbreviation or Country of publication: Publisher.

Reference list examples – Chapter in a book, etc.

Entry in an anthology (where H. LaFollette is the editor of the book):


Case study in a textbook (where J. Ness is the author of the book):


In-text citation examples – Chapter in a book, etc.

One author, entry in an anthology:

Warren (2007, p. 132) illustrated that …

… as research demonstrated in the previous ten years (Warren, 2007, p. 132).

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Case Studies

- Harvard Business School
- Ivey Business School
- Textbook Case Study
- Online Case Study

Harvard Business School Case Study

Elements required and general format:

Author(s). (Year). Title of case study. HBS No. number of case study. City, State abbreviation or Country of publication: Publisher.

Reference list examples – Harvard Business School case study

One author:


Two authors:


In-text citation examples – Harvard Business School case study

One author:

...as the case study concluded (Smith, 2003, p. 6).

Smith reported (2003, p. 6) that the data was flawed.

Two authors:

Eisenmann and Herman did agree on the research findings (2006, p. 11).

... as both researchers agreed (Eisenmann & Herman, 2006, p. 11).

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Ivey Business School Case Study

Elements required and general format:

Author(s). (Year). *Title of case study*. Ivey ID: number of case study. City, State abbreviation or Country of publication: Publisher.

Reference list example – Ivey Business School case study

Two authors:


In-text citation examples – Ivey Business School case study

One author:

... as Byron concluded in the case study (2010, p. 105).

The case study concluded the same results (Byron, 2010, p. 105).

Two authors:

Heisz and Leech concluded similar findings (2005, p. 491).

... and the American researchers agreed (Heisz & Leech, 2005, p. 491).
Textbook Case Study

Elements required and general format:

Author(s) or editor(s) of the chapter or entry or case study. (Year of book). Title of chapter or entry or case study. In First initial. Last name, & First initial. Last name (Eds.), Title of book (pp. xx-xx). City, State abbreviation or Country of publication: Publisher.

Reference list example – Textbook case study

One author:


Saskatoon, Canada: CDMA Publishing.

In-text citation example – Textbook case study

One author:

the argument for “insert quote here” … (Pederson, 2008, p. 11).

Pederson’s statement that “insert quote here” (2008, p. 15) still holds true today.

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Online Case Study

Elements required and general format:

Author(s). (Year). Title of case study: Subtitle of case study. Title of Journal, Volume(issue), page number(s). Retrieved from URL of the article (case study)

Reference list example – Online case study

Two authors:


In-text citation example – Online case study

Two authors:

Schiehll and Andre (2003, p. 15) demonstrated that …

… as the researchers concluded last year (Schiehll & Andre, 2003, p. 15).

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Company Profiles or Industry Reports

Elements required and general format:

Author(s). (Year). Title of company profile or industry report. Retrieved from URL of the article (case study)

Reference list example – Online company profile or industry report
Use the corporate author (for example, Datamonitor).

Company profile:


In-text citation examples – Online company profile or industry report
When citing more than one work by the same author published in the same year, differentiate using letters of the alphabet in order from a to z.

One author

It was indicated that… (Datamonitor, 2011).

… as Datamonitor’s industry report concluded last year (2010).

Two or more works with same author published in same year

The Datamonitor company profile (2011a) demonstrated that …in comparison to the numbers given in the industry report (2011b).

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Conference Papers

If you are not able to find out all the information identified in the general format, include only what is available from the source.

Elements required and general format of paper with DOI:


Elements required and general format of paper without DOI:


Reference list example – Conference papers

Conference paper found online, no DOI:


In-text citation examples – Conference papers

...as reported by Keshavarzi, Mohammadi, and Bayesteh (2012).

...such as the research reported on last year at the U.S. Rock Mechanics/Geomechanics Symposium (Keshavarzi, Mohammadi, & Bayesteh, 2012).

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Government Documents

If the authoring government agency (e.g. Department of Finance) does not include the level of government in its name, then add it before the author name (e.g. Canada. Department of Finance.).

For online documents, if an individual authored a report for a government agency, use the individual as the author, but include the government information in the “Retrieved from” statement (e.g. Retrieved from Alberta Instructure and Transportation website: http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/Content/docType30/Production/bgmgtstrgyg.pdf).

If you are not able to find out all the information identified in the general format, include only what is available from the source.

Elements required and general format for online documents:

Author. (Year of publication). Title of report: Subtitle of report (Catalogue or Publication No. ##, if provided). Retrieved from name of government website if necessary and URL

Elements required and general format for print documents:

Author. (Year of publication). Title of report: Subtitle of report (Catalogue or Publication No. ##, if provided). Location: Publisher.

Reference list examples –Government documents

Online, level of gov’t not indicated in department/agency name:


Online, level of gov’t indicated in department name:

Online, personal author; gov’t included in retrieval statement:
http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/Content/docType30/Production/bgmgtstrgyg.pdf

Offline, level of gov’t not indicated in department/agency name:

**In-text citation examples – Government documents**

…as reported by the Canadian Department of Finance (2011).
…as described in the government report (Canada. Department of Finance, 2011).
Images

The following applies to stand-alone images or artwork. If, for example, you are referencing a screenshot from a video game, or of a piece of software, you will instead provide a reference for the whole video game or software.

Elements required and general format:

Creator(s) of the image or artwork [Screenname if applicable]. (Year image was created, Month Day if available). [Description] OR Title of image or artwork [Type of work]. Retrieved from URL

Reference list example – Image or artwork
If the work is untitled, provide a description of the image in square brackets.

Photograph, one creator:


Artwork, one creator:


Diagram, no date:


Artwork, no title:

In-text citation examples – Image or artwork

In-text citations for images include the creator’s last name, the title of the image, and the year the image was created, either as part of the text of your paper or in parentheses.

One creator, image NOT included in text of paper:

The estimated value of The Starry Night (Van Gogh, 1889) has undergone an enormous shift since it was first painted …

Painted in 1889, The Starry Night (Van Gogh) was originally valued at …

One creator, image included in text of paper:

… as can be seen in photographs taken shortly after the storm died down (see Figure 1).

In its wake, the storm left behind trees and city infrastructure coated with ice (see Figure 1), with an estimated cost of…

Attribution/captions format:

If you are including an image in the text of your paper, you may instead indicate the image in-text by referring to it as Figure 1, 2, or 3 and so on. Place the image as close to its in-text citation as possible, and attribution information beneath the image used.

Attribution gives credit to the creator of a work, and can be formatted in a variety of ways. Be consistent when you choose a format. Follow the link below for attribution format suggestions:

http://www.nait.ca/libresources/citations/captioning_images.pdf

For information and assistance on copyright, please visit: https://nait.libguides.com/copyright/
Interviews (Personal Communications)

Includes personal interviews, telephone conversations, e-mail messages, private letters, etc.

Cite personal communications in text only. Give the initials as well as the surname of the communicator and provide an exact date, if possible.

No personal communication is included in your reference list, unless the communication is recoverable (e.g., an archived interview transcript); in this case the materials should be cited as archival materials (see section 7.10 of the official APA Manual). For an example of blueprints, see page 5 of this document.

In-text citation example – Personal communications

The cost of corn in America has been rising substantially as cars running on biofuels have risen in popularity (G. A. Smith, personal communication, October 5, 2012).

G. A. Smith (personal communication, October 5, 2012) argues that the popularity of biofuel vehicles has triggered a rise in the cost of corn.

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Journal Articles

- Print Journal Article
- Online Journal Article with a DOI (Digital Object Identifier)
- Online Journal Article without a DOI

Print Journal Article

Elements required and general format for journal paginated by volume (page numbers continue throughout year):

Author(s). (Year). Title of journal article: Subtitle of article. Title of Journal, Volume number, page number(s).

Elements required and general format for journal paginated by issue (each issue begins with page 1):

Author(s). (Year). Title of journal article: Subtitle of article. Title of Journal, Volume number(issue number), page number(s).

Reference list examples – Journal article

In APA style, every author or editor’s name is inverted (the last name comes first); use only the initials for the first and middle names. Only capitalize the first word of the title, subtitle, and any proper nouns.

Two or more authors, issue number not included:


Two or more authors, issue number included:


No Author:

In-text citation examples – Journal article

One author:

Smyth (2008, p. 40) found that…

Smyth (2008) indicated that “insert quote here” (p. 40).

… as one researcher reported (Smyth, 2008, p. 40).

This case indicated that “insert quote here” (Smyth, 2008, p. 40).

Two authors:

Smyth and Hanson (2007) reported “insert quote here” (p. 59).

Smyth and Hanson (2007, p. 59) demonstrated that …

The researchers concluded the same facts (Smyth & Hanson, 2007, p. 59).

The researchers (Smyth & Hanson, 2007) concluded “insert quote here” (p. 59).

No author:

… as was reported in the final study (“Order in the oil sands,” 2008, p. 17).

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**Online Journal Article (With DOI / Digital Object Identifier)**

Elements required and general format for journal **paginated by volume** (page numbers continue throughout year):

Author(s). (Year). Title of journal article. *Title of Journal, Volume*, page number(s). doi:DOI of article OR https://doi.org/10.xxxxxxxxxxxx

Elements required and general format for journal **paginated by issue** (each issue begins with page 1):

Author(s). (Year). Title of journal article. *Title of Journal, Volume*(Issue), page number(s).

doi:DOI of article OR https://doi.org/10.xxxxxxxxxxxx

**Reference list example – Online journal article with DOI**

Multiple authors, no issue number, http-style DOI:


Multiple authors, no issue number, old style DOI:


**In-text citation examples – Online journal article with DOI**

Multiple authors:


… as the researchers concluded (Street et al., 2009, p. 200).
Online Journal Article (Without DOI / Digital Object Identifier)

Researchers use DOIs to provide neutral access points that do not require a specific institutional log-in; when an article does not have a DOI, the journal’s home page URL is an appropriate substitute. At NAIT, your papers will be read by instructors with the same institutional access as you, and it is usually acceptable to provide a direct, stable link to the article instead. Please double-check with your instructor if you are not sure of their preference.

Elements required and general format for journal paginated by volume (page numbers continue throughout year):

Author(s). (Year). Title of journal article. Title of Journal, Volume, page number(s). Retrieved from URL of the article

Elements required and general format for journal paginated by issue (each issue begins with page 1):

Author(s). (Year). Title of journal article. Title of Journal, Volume(Issue), page number(s). Retrieved from URL of the article

Reference list examples – Online journal article without DOI

One author:


Retrieved from http://go.galegroup.com.libezproxy.nait.ca/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CA235630942&v=2.1&u=naitl_main&it=r&p=AONE&sw=w

In-text citation examples – Online journal article without DOI

One author:

… and the research was supported by Drummond (2009, p. 18).

… the researcher concluded that “insert quote here” (Drummond, 2009, p. 18).
Lecture Notes & Handouts

If you are citing information from your personal notes, treat it as a personal communication; refer to it only in-text, not in the reference list. Official lecture notes or handouts from your instructor should be cited both in-text and in the reference list.

Elements required and general format for online resource:

Author(s). (Year). Title of handout or presentation [Type of resource]. Retrieved from URL

Elements required and general format for print resource:

Author(s). (Year). Title of handout or presentation [Type of resource]. Program or Department, Name of Institution, City, State Abbreviation or Country.

Reference list examples – Handouts

Presentation from instructor, online:


Handout from instructor, offline:


In-text citation examples – Handouts

John Smith indicated that … (2012).

… as the handout emphasized (Smith, 2012).
Legal Materials

The APA *Publication Manual* recommends that you provide your legal material references in the conventional format of *The BlueBook* system of legal citation. Because *The Bluebook* is US-centric, within Canada it is also acceptable to refer to the *McGill Guide*, which provides the standards for uniform Canadian legal citation.

**Court Decisions**

Elements required and general format:

Name v. Name, Year Court Number.

**Reference list examples – Court decisions**

*Supreme Court of Canada:*


*Court of Queen’s Bench -- Alberta:*

D’Aoust v. Lindsay, 2000 ABQB 52.

**In-text citation examples – Court decisions**

In-text citations include case name, year, and paragraph numbers of citing a direct quote. In the second and subsequent in-text citations, you may use an abbreviation of the case name.

… as the “distinction between physical and mental injury is elusive and arguably artificial in the context of tort” (Mustapha v. Culligan, 2008, para. 8).

… additionally, “must show that it was foreseeable that a person of ordinary fortitutde would suffer serious injury from seeing the flies in the bottle of water” (Mustapha, 2008, para. 18).

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Periodicals (Newspapers & Magazines)

- Print Newspaper Article
- Online Newspaper Article
- Online Magazine Article

Print Newspaper Article


Author(s). (Year, Month Day). Title of journal article. Title of Newspaper, page number(s).

Reference list examples – Newspaper article

One author:


No author:


In-text citation examples – Newspaper article

One author:


No author:


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Online Newspaper Article

Elements required and general format:

Author(s). (Year, Month Day). Title of article: Subtitle of article. *Title of Newspaper* *Edition if applicable*, page number(s) or section letter(s). Retrieved from URL of article

Reference list examples – Online newspaper article
Do not abbreviate the month when citing online magazines. Include p. or pp. for page number(s).

One author:


In-text citation examples – Online newspaper article

One author:

Jack (1998, p. 2) found that cleaner gasoline was more expensive.


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Online Magazine Article

Elements required and general format:

Author(s). (Year, Month Day). Title of article: Subtitle of article. Title of Magazine, Volume(Issue), page number(s). Retrieved from URL of article

Reference list examples – Online magazine article
Do not abbreviate the month when citing online magazines.

One author:

Weinman, J. J. (2008, May 5). Where should we put the violins? A debate over how to place orchestras’ string section heats up in the classical world. Maclean’s, 121(17), 54.


In-text citation examples – Online magazine article

One author:

… as Weinman successfully debated the topic (2008, p. 54).

A recent article debated the topic once again (Weinman, 2008, p. 54).
Podcasts

If you are not able to find all of the information identified in the general format, include only what is available from the source. Use the URL that points to the podcast homepage rather than the individual podcast episode, as the homepage link is more likely to remain stable and active.

Elements required and general format:

Author(s), (Author responsibility such as Author, Host, or Producer). (Year, Month Day of publication or production). Title of podcast: Subtitle of podcast [Audio podcast].

Retrieved from the URL for podcast homepage

Reference list examples – Podcast

One author, host or producer:


In-text citation examples – Podcast

One author, host or producer:

… according to the discussion in McDonald’s podcast (2012).

… according to the discussion in the podcast (McDonald, 2012).
Statistical Tables & Datasets

If you are not able to find out all the information identified in the general format, include only what is available from the source.

Elements required and general format:

Author. (Year of publication). *Title of the dataset: Subtitle of the dataset* [Description of format].

Retrieved from URL

Reference list examples – Statistical tables


In-text citation examples – Statistical Tables

…as recorded in the Statistics Canada summary table (2012).

…as shown by the data (Statistics Canada, n.d.).
Videos

- Streaming Video from Library Database
- Streaming Video from the Open Web (YouTube, Vimeo, etc.)
- Movie in Theatre or on DVD/VHS

Streaming Video Retrieved from a Library Database

Streaming videos are delivered through the web. Many are available through subscription databases, such as Films on Demand. If you are not able to find out all the information identified in the general format, include only what is available from the source.

Elements required and general format:

Name of Producer(s) or Director(s). (Responsibility such as Producer or Director). (Year, Month Day of production). Title of streaming video: Subtitle of streaming video [Video file].

Retrieved from URL

Reference list examples – Streaming video

One producer:


Producer and director:


In-text citation examples – Streaming video

Producer or director:

as reported in Paterson’s (2005) video.

…as described in the T-Rex video (University of Chicago, 2009).
Streaming Video Retrieved from Open Web (YouTube, Vimeo, etc.)

Locating a video on the open web often depends upon knowing the name or screenname of the person who posted the video; for this reason, on a source like YouTube, use the person who posted the video as the author. If there is no real name, use the screen name in its place, without brackets.

If you are not able to find out all the information identified in the general format, include only what is available from the source.

Elements required and general format:

Last name, First initials [Screen name]. (Year, Month Day). Title of streaming video: Subtitle of streaming video [Video file]. Retrieved from URL

Reference list examples – Streaming video

Real name given:


No real name; screen name only:


Corporate name and screen name are the same:


Video posted on organization website, not YouTube:

Motion Pictures

If you are not able to find out all the information identified in the general format, include only what is available from the source.

Elements required and general format:

Name of Producer(s) or Director(s). (Responsibility such as Producer or Director). (Year). Title of movie [Motion picture]. Country of Origin: Studio.

Reference list examples – Motion pictures

One director:


Producer and director:


In-text citation examples – Motion pictures

When citing dialogue between two or more speakers, indicate who is speaking by including the character name before each new dialogue line in a block quote.

Quoting dialogue between two or more characters:

JESSEP: “You want answers?”

KAFFEE: “I think I’m entitled to.”

JESSEP: “You want answers?”

KAFFEE: “I want the truth!”

JESSEP: “You can’t handle the truth!” (Sorkin, 1992).

Producer or director:

…as reported in Moore’s (2009) video.

…as described in Crimson Tide (Unger & Scott, 1995).
The Web (PDFs, Webpages, Blogs, etc.)

If you are citing an entire website, you do not have to include a citation for the website in the list of references. You must, however, identify the source by providing the address of the website in your paper.

In-text citation examples – Whole website

Kidspsych is a wonderful interactive web site for children (http://www.kidspsych.org).

Webpage or Document from a Website

If you are not able to find all of the information identified in the general format, include all that is available from the source. Please note that you only need to include retrieval dates for websites with content that changes frequently and without warning (such as Google maps). Only include the date of publication or revision if it is clearly listed.

From The APA Style Guide to Electronic Sources: “Do not italicize the titles of blog posts, online forum messages, comments, status updates, and so on. Do italicize titles of reports and other standalone documents. If the distinction is unclear […] authors should use their own judgement to decide whether to italicize. Err on the side of not italicizing.”

Elements required and general format:

Author(s). (Year). Title of webpage or document: Subtitle [Format if required]. Retrieved from URL that goes directly to the document

Reference list examples – Webpage or document from a website

One author, blog post:


Company or organization as author:

In-text citation examples – Webpage or document from a website

One author:

… as McGrath stated (2008).

… as stated by the researcher (McGrath, 2008).

No author, no page number:

… was fully explained (“New Child Vaccine”, 2010).

The “New Child Vaccine” site (2010) indicated that …

No author, page number is available:

… the study indicated that “insert quote here” (“How Do Dogs,” 2008, p. 5).

“How Do Dogs” (2008) argued that “insert quote here” (p. 5).

No author, page number, or date; paragraph number available:

This term is defined as “insert quote here” (“Heuristic,” n.d., para. 1).

The “Heuristic” encyclopedia entry defined the term as “insert quote here” (n.d., para. 1).
Wikipedia Entries

Most scholarly research should rely on peer-reviewed or other academic works. **Ensure that the use of Wikipedia entries is approved by your Instructor.**

Elements required and general format:


**Reference list examples – Wikipedia**

Wikipedia entries are dynamic and created as a collaborative effort. As such, no one author can be given credit for any entry and no creation date can be determined. **Because of their dynamic nature, the citation for any Wikipedia entry must contain a retrieval date, which indicates when the information was accessed.**


**In-text citation examples – Wikipedia**

As Wikipedia entries are collaboratively authored, in-text citations refer to the title of the Wikipedia entry.

As indicated by the “Flightless bird” (n.d.) entry…

Flightless birds are defined as … (“Flightless bird,” n.d.).
I don’t see my source type listed in this document: Now what?

Your first step is always going to be to check other APA guides – no guide is comprehensive, and sometimes you will need a combination to get you through a complicated reference list. Some suggestions:

- Google your question (“APA style two publication dates”)
- Search the official APA Style Blog
- Check out the other resources listed on the NAIT Library’s Citations & Style Guides page
- Ask a librarian

The official APA Style manual covers how to reference many different types of sources, but it’s also not comprehensive. When we have a source that doesn’t show up in the official guide, we create a “Frankenreference” that follows the basic building blocks of APA style:

Author. (Date). Title. Publishing information.

Every APA Style reference follows the above format. Some references require a lot of publishing information, like journal articles or chapters in books – and some, like a generic webpage, need very little. When you create your own Frankenreference, you can mix and match elements from examples that partially match your own situation. Let’s look at some standard examples:


The first example above is a chapter published in an edited anthology; the second is a YouTube video. They look pretty different, but you can see that they still follow the same general format: Author, Date, Title, Publishing Information.

Let’s say I want to reference an edited book anthology that is available online in Google Books, and every chapter author gave only a screenname. I can create a Frankenreference using the two examples above as a guide:


I used the screenname and “retrieved from” elements from the YouTube video example, and mixed them together with the formatting suggestions for chapters in an edited book. Voila! A Frankenreference that follows APA formatting: Author. (Date). Title. Publishing information.

When you create a Frankenreference, remember to be consistent throughout your reference list.