American Psychological Association (APA) Documentation

APA style is most often used in the social sciences, including government, psychology, sociology, and education. For more help, consult the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 6th edition (2009), or visit the Writing Center.

Step 1: In-Text Citations. Place an in-text citation in each sentence containing borrowed concepts or data that are not common knowledge. Cite paraphrases, summaries, data, and quotations.

Quotes: To cite a direct quote, include the author's last name, year of publication, and page number.
   Ex. Too often, parents have "forgotten the difficulties of being a teenager and thus are unlikely to empathize with the trials and tribulations of high school life" (Smith, 2009, p. 32).
   Ex. Jonathan Smith (2009) found that parents have "forgotten the difficulties of being a teenager and thus are unlikely to empathize with the trials and tribulations of high school life" (p. 32).
Paraphrases and summaries. APA style encourages but does not require a page number in an in-text citation of a paraphrase. Page numbers are unnecessary when citing a summary.
   Ex. Parents are often too far removed from high school to connect with the struggles their children face there (Smith, 2009, p. 32).
   Ex. Jonathan Smith (2009) remarked that parents are often too far removed from high school to connect with the struggles their children face there (p. 32).

Sources without page numbers. If the source lacks page numbers, cite the paragraph number instead.
   Ex. Too often, "parents of adolescents have forgotten the difficulties of being a teenager and thus are unlikely to empathize with the trials and tribulations of high school life" (Smith, 2009, para. 6).

Multiple authors. For texts with 2 authors, always cite both: (Patel & Jackson, 2008, p. 41).
For texts with 3 to 5 authors, include all in the first citation: (Martucci, Jones, & Garcia, 2007, p. 117).
   Then include the 1st author and "et al." in all subsequent citations: (Martucci et al., 2007, p. 117).
For texts with 6 or more authors, cite the 1st author and "et al.": (Reese et al., 2009, p. 67).

An organization as author. When the author of a source is an organization rather than an individual, simply treat the organization as the author: (Centers for Disease Control, 2008, p. 15).

Step 2: References Page (example on reverse). A page at the end of your paper entitled "References" lists detailed information about your sources.

Formatting: Alphabetize references by the author's last name. Double-space each line. Place the first line of an entry flush with the left margin; indent subsequent lines of that entry. Italicize the titles of major works such as journals, books, and websites. Do not italicize article or webpage titles. Capitalize the first, last, and all major words in journal and other periodical titles. Capitalize only proper nouns and the first word of the title and subtitle of books, articles, websites, and webpages.

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References Example

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