A Brief APA Style Guide

APA (an abbreviation for the American Psychological Association) is one method of documenting sources you use in a paper. Authors are named by their last name followed by initials. When you include a quotation or paraphrase from a source, use an in-text citation in the body of your essay. For in-text citations, use the author’s name, the date, and the page number. The date appears parenthetically next to the author’s name, and page numbers appear parenthetically at the end of the sentence. At the end of your essay, include a complete reference list that provides the publication details for all the sources you used in the essay. For a reference list, give the author’s name, publication date, title, and other publication information.

In-text Citations

Work with One Author:

“This is an example sentence” (Smith, 2015, p. 12).

OR

Smith (2015) states, “This is an example sentence” (p.12).

Work with Two Authors:

“This is an example sentence” (Smith & Jones, 2015, pp. 12-13).

OR

According to Smith and Jones (2015), “This is an example sentence” (pp.12-13).

Reference List

Basic rules for articles in periodicals

APA style dictates that authors are named by last name and followed by initials; publication year goes between parentheses, followed by a period. The title of the article is in sentence-case, meaning only the first word and proper nouns in the title are capitalized. The periodical title is run in title case, and is followed by the volume number which, with the title, is also italicized.


An Article in a Newspaper


An Article in a Journal


A Book