CITING AND REFERENCING
IN APA (AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, 2009) STYLE

The following guide provides relevant format examples. It is up to the writer to determine the correct citation for individual sources. An updated manual or handbook may be useful for further clarification. For additional information on research documentation styles, as well as related links, please visit the Writing Center’s and the James E. Tobin Library's home pages.

IN-TEXT CITATIONS

There are two ways of crediting an author's idea: in a parenthetical citation or by attribution.

In a Parenthetical Citation, one acknowledges the source (author) of an idea by indicating that author within parentheses at the end of the sentence.

- When paraphrasing an author's idea in a parenthetical citation, put the author's last name, a comma, and the year of publication within the parentheses. When no date is available, use the abbreviation n.d. for “no date.”
- When quoting the author's exact words, which should only be done in 10% of the paper, a page number is also required.

Parenthetical Citation Examples

- As a paraphrase: By September 2008, for a short period of time, there may be no ice on the North Pole (McKibben, 1991).
- As a direct quote: “The North Pole may be briefly ice-free by September 2008” (McKibben, 1992, p. 15).

By Attribution, one acknowledges the author of an idea by indicating that author within the sentence itself.

- When paraphrasing an author’s idea in an attribution, the year can either follow the author, in parentheses, or be enclosed within parentheses at the end of the sentence.
- When quoting, the same applies for the year as in paraphrasing; however, the page number should follow the year within the parentheses at the end of the sentence.

Attribution Examples

- As a paraphrase: According to McKibben (1991), by September 2008, for a short period of time, there may be no ice on the North Pole.

The above examples of parenthetical citations and attributions are all of a one-author source. The following examples are of sources with more than one author or other author variations:

Two authors

. . . (Moriarty & Carter, 2009).
**Three, four, or five authors**
The first time the citation occurs, list all the authors; in subsequent citations, use only the last name of the first author, followed by the Latin abbreviation et al. for "and others."

Larson, Ellis, and Rivers (1984) found . . . .  
Larson et al. (1984) found . . . .  

**Six or more authors**
Cite only the last name of the first author, followed by et al.

Wolchik et al. (2000) discovered . . . .  
. . . (Wolchik et al., 2000).

**Unknown author**
Cite the title of the work (use only the first few words of a long title) and the year of publication. For a short work, such as an article, use quotation marks; for a long work, such as a book, use italics.


**No date available**
Thomison and Latner (n. d.) noted . . . .  
. . . (Thomison & Latner, n. d.).

**Article or chapter in an edited book**
Cite the last name of the author of the article or chapter (not the editor of the book) and the year of publication.

Hartley, Harker, and Walsh (1980) noted . . . .  
. . . (Hartley, Harker, & Walsh, 1980).

**Document on a website with an organization as the author**
Cite the name of the organization and the year of publication.

. . . (American Cancer Society, 2008).

**Online dictionary or encyclopedia entry with no author**
For an attribution, cite the name of the dictionary or encyclopedia in italics and the year of publication.


For a parenthetical citation, cite the term searched for and the year of publication

. . . (Mythology and folklore, 2002).
Entire website
Cite the address of the website in parentheses. This is not included in the reference list.

The American Nurses Association (http://www.ana.org) is an excellent resource for nurses.

Personal communication
Examples include a letter, an email, a telephone conversation, a personal interview, and a class lecture. Cite the person's name, the words personal communication, and the date. This is not included in the reference list.

J. Stewart (personal communication, June 27, 2008) reported . . . .

. . . (J. Stewart, personal communication, June 27, 2008).

Citation of a work discussed in a secondary source
In the text, name the primary source, and cite the secondary source. In the reference list, include the secondary source, not the primary source.

Seidenberg and McClelland's study (as cited in Coltheart, Curtis, Atkins, & Haller, 1993) . . .

For electronic sources that do not provide page numbers, cite the paragraph number, if available, preceded by the abbreviation para.

If the source does not have either a page number or a paragraph number, cite the heading and the number of the paragraph under that heading.

(Madden, 2008, Conclusion section, para. 1)

If the heading is long, use a shortened version of it within quotation marks.

(Bennet, 2009, "Logical Fallacies," para. 2) (The original heading was “Logical Fallacies and How to Avoid Them.”)
REFERENCES

References are alphabetized and double-spaced within and between references. Use the hanging indent format: the first line is flush along the left margin, and subsequent lines for an entry are indented one-half inch. URLs are not underlined (even though software automatically underlines them). However, they should remain as active links. If it is necessary to split a URL at the end of a line, break the URL before punctuation, such as a slash. Provide the retrieval date only if the information is likely to be updated or changed at a later date (as in the case of blogs and wikis). Since online periodicals generally appear in their final form, a retrieval date is not necessary.

BOOKS

One author

Two to seven authors

Edited book with no authors; edition other than the first

Article or chapter in an edited book with authors

Entry in an encyclopedia or dictionary with an editor

PERIODICALS

Journal article with continuous pagination

Journal article with pagination by issue
**Journal article with eight or more authors**
Include first six authors’ names, then insert three ellipsis points and add the last author’s name.


**Journal article with an unknown author**

**Magazine article**

**Newspaper article**

**ELECTRONIC SOURCES**

**Online journal article with DOI**

doi:10.1002/bult.159

**Journal article from a database**
When there is no digital object identifier (DOI):
- Provide the homepage uniform resource locator (URL) of the journal, not the Molloy College library URL. This may require doing a web search for the URL.


- If you are not able to locate a DOI or the URL of the journal homepage, provide the name of the database you accessed and the word “database,” a period, and the words “Accession Number” and the number in parentheses, without a period at the end.


Retrieved from ProQuest database. [Accession Number 20135678999]
Online magazine article

Online newspaper article

Document on a website

Document on a website with no author

Document on a website with an organization as the author
If a website is not updated with a current month and date, provide the retrieval date in the reference.


Online dictionary or encyclopedia entry with no author
Provide only the address of the website, not the URL that takes you directly to the entry.