

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.
- **As a direct quote:** According to McKibben (1991), "The North Pole may be briefly ice-free by September 2008" (p. 15).

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 and Carter (2009) asserted . . .

(attribution)

. . . (Moriarty & Carter, 2009).

(parenthetical citation)

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 (first citation)
 Larson et al. (1984) found (subsequent citations)

Six or more authors

Cite only the last name of the first author, followed by et al.

Wolchik et al. (2000) discovered (attribution)
 . . . (Wolchik et al., 2000). (parenthetical citation)

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.

The article “Treatment for Sexually Abused” (2000) concluded (short work)
 The book *Treatment for Sexually Abused* (2000) concluded (long work)
 The web document “Mandela Celebrates with Will Smith” (2008) concluded. . . (web document)

No date available

Thomison and Latner (n. d.) noted (attribution)
 . . . (Thomison & Latner, n. d.). (parenthetical citation)

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 (attribution)
 . . . (Hartley, Harker, & Walsh, 1980). (parenthetical citation)

Document on a website with an organization as the author

Cite the name of the organization and the year of publication.

The American Cancer Society (2008) stated (attribution)
 . . . (American Cancer Society, 2008). (parenthetical citation)

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.

The New Dictionary of Cultural Literacy (2002) defines mythology as (attribution)

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

. . . (Mythology and folklore, 2002). (parenthetical citation)

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 (attribution)

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

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

McKibben, B. (1992). *The age of missing information*. New York, NY: Random House.

Two to seven authors

Larson, G. W., Ellis, D. C., & Rivers, P. C. (1984). *Essentials of chemical dependency counseling*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press.

Edited book with no authors; edition other than the first

Moriarty, L. J., & Carter, D. L. (Eds.). (1998). *Criminal justice technology in the 21st century* (2nd ed.). New York, NY: New York University Press.

Article or chapter in an edited book with authors

Hartley, J. T., Harker, J. O., & Walsh, D. A. (1980). Contemporary issues and new directions in adult development of learning and memory. In L. W. Poon (Ed.), *Aging in the 1980s: Psychological issues* (pp. 239-252). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Entry in an encyclopedia or dictionary with an editor

Moore, C. (Ed.). (1991). Mass spectrometry. In *Encyclopedia of chemical technology* (4th ed.) (Vol. 15, pp. 1071-1094). New York, NY: Wiley.

PERIODICALS

Journal article with continuous pagination

Burke, R. J., Shearer, D., & Deszca, E. (1984). Correlates of burnout phases among police officers. *Group and Organizational Studies*, 9, 451-466.

Journal article with pagination by issue

Berkerian, D. A. (1993). The ADA and the hiring process in organizations. *Consulting Psychology Journal: Practice and Research*, 45(2), 10-36.

Journal article with eight or more authors

Include first six authors' names, then insert three ellipsis points and add the last author's name.

Wolchik, S. A., West, S. G., Sandler, I. N., Tein, J., Coatsworth, D., Lengua, L., . . . Bostros, N. (2000). An experimental evaluation of mother-child programs for children of divorce. *Journal of Counseling and Clinical Psychology, 68*, 843-856.

Journal article with an unknown author

Treatment for sexually abused children and adolescents. (2000). *American Psychologist, 55*, 1040-1049.

Magazine article

Caloyianis, N. (1998, September). Greenland sharks. *National Geographic, 194*, 60-71.

Newspaper article

Von Drehle, D. (2000, January 15). Russians unveil new security plan. *The Washington Post*, pp. A1, A21.

ELECTRONIC SOURCES**Online journal article with DOI**

Mehra, B., Bishop, A. P., & Bazzell, I. (2000). The role of use scenarios in developing a community health information system. *Bulletin of the American Society for Information Science, 26*(4), 10-12.

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.

Collier, S.A., Mulholland, C., Williams, J., Mersereau, P., Turay, K., & Prue, C. (2011). A qualitative study of perceived barriers to management of diabetes among women with a history of diabetes during pregnancy. *Journal of Women's Health, 20*(9), 1333-9. Retrieved from <http://www.liebertpub.com/JWH>

- 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.

Lang, I. M. (2009). Brain stem control of the phases of swallowing. *Dysphagia, 24*, 333.
Retrieved from ProQuest database. (Accession Number 20135678999)

Online magazine article

McGinn, D., & Springen, K. (2007, July 30). Express medicine. *Newsweek*. Retrieved from <http://newsweek.com/nw-srv/printed/us/so/a54599-2000jan23.htm>

Online newspaper article

Doulin, T., Gebolys, D., & Zachariah, H. (2006, November 9). Smoking goes poof. *Columbus Dispatch*. Retrieved from <http://www.columbusdispatch.com/live/contentbe/dispatch/2006/11/09/20061109-A1-03.html>

Document on a website

Madden, M. (2008, June 27). *Supreme Court gun ruling could backfire*. Retrieved from http://www.salon.com/news/feature/2008/06/27/scotus_guns/

Document on a website with no author

Mandela celebrates with Will Smith. (2008, June 27). Retrieved from <http://www.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/europe/06/27/mandela.concert/>

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.

American Cancer Society. (2008). *Guide to quitting smoking*. Retrieved June 27, 2008, from

http://www.cancer.org/docroot/PED/content/PED_10_13X_Guide_for_Quitting_Smoking.asp

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.

Mythology and folklore. (2002). In *The new dictionary of cultural literacy*. Retrieved July 20, 2007, from

<http://www.bartleby.com/59/>