IN-TEXT CITATIONS IN APA (AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, 2009) STYLE

When paraphrasing an author’s idea, put the author’s last name, a comma, and the year of publication either in parentheses (parenthetical) or by attribution. When no date is available, use the abbreviation n.d. for “no date.” The page number is not required, except when quoting the author’s exact words, which should only be done in about 10% of the paper.

Single author
According to McKibben (1992), “The North Pole may be briefly ice-free by September 2008” (p. 15).

(This is an attribution, which is interchangeable with a parenthetical citation.)

According to one study, “The North Pole may be briefly ice-free by September 2008” (McKibben, 1992, p. 15).

(This is a parenthetical citation.)

Two authors

. . . (Moriarty & Carter, 2009).

(Two authors: 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 . . .

Larson et al. (1984) found . . .

(Six or more authors: Parenthetical citation)

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: 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.


(No date available: Parenthetical citation)

Thomison and Latner (n. d.) noted . . .

. . . (Thomison & Latner, n. d.).

(No date available: 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 . . . .

. . . (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 IN THE 2009 APA STYLE

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

Online magazine article

Online newspaper article

Journal article from a database
When there is no DOI, provide the URL rather than the name of the database. This may require doing a web search for the URL.


Document on a website
Document on a website with no author

Document on a website with an organization as the author
If updates are not indicated, 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.