

APA Citation Style – Quick Reference Guide

The American Psychological Association (APA) has set the following guidelines for citing sources.

A. In a Reference List

A list of your sources should be attached **at the end** of your assignment. Put sources in **alphabetical order**, and **do not number** your list. Use a **hanging indent** (the first line of an entry is not indented, but all the rest are).

It's all in the details! Take note of:

- which words/letters are capitalized?
- which words are italicized?
- placement of punctuation (periods, commas, colons)
- placement of indents

Books

General:



Author, A. A., & Author, B. B. (Date of publication). *Title, only first word capitalized*. City, Province/State: Publisher.

Example:

Calfee, R. C., & Valencia, R. R. (1991). *APA guide to preparing manuscripts for journal publication*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Websites

General:



Author, A. A., & Author, B. B. (Date of publication). *Title of document*. Retrieved from <http://Web address>

Example:

Angeli, E., Wagner, J., Lawrick, E., Moore, K., Anderson, M., Soderland, L., & Brizee, A. (2010, May 5). *General format*. Retrieved from <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

Variations:

- If **no date** is listed, write (n.d.) in place of the year
- If **no author** is listed, move the title up to the author position, and **do not** italicize it.

Example:

General format. (n.d.) Retrieved from <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

B. Internally, in the Body of Your Work

If you are required to cite your sources in-text, you only need to state the author(s) and date of publication, in **parentheses**. Place your citation **immediately following the information** you are citing. For example:

Some of the most complex animal societies on Earth are formed by leaf cutter ants (Ross, 2002).

Scenario	Example
<u>One to two authors</u> - Identify the authors' last names, and year of publication	(Wegener & Petty, 1994)
<u>Three to five authors</u> - Identify the authors' last names and year of publication the first time only . For all following citations, identify only the first author, followed by "et al.", and year.	<i>first time:</i> (Kernis, Cornell, Sun, Berry, & Harlow, 1993) <i>subsequent:</i> (Kernis et al., 1993)
<u>Six authors or more</u> - First author only, followed by "et al.", and year.	(Harris et al., 2001)
<u>Author is an organization</u> - Spell out the name of the group, with title case capitalization.	(National Institute of Mental Health, 2005)
<u>Author unknown</u> - If the author is not listed, use the first 1-3 words of the document's title, in quotations.	("Enzyme function", 2013)

These are the most common formats you will need to use.

If you need more details about APA citation, go to: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/1/>