



APA Documentation: a Quick Guide

When you write a research paper in the social sciences, you will be required to document all the information you use in your paper in the format standardized by the American Psychological Association (APA).

Basic format for citing books in the list of references:

Ramirez, M. (1991). *Psychotherapy and counseling with minorities: A cognitive approach to individual and cultural differences*. New York: Pergamon Press.

Books with two or more authors:

Gonzalez, A., & Ramirez, M. (1974). *Chicanos and psychology*. Riverside: University of California Press.

Books with an editor instead of an author:

Pennebaker, J.W., Paez, D., & Rime, B. (Eds.) (1997). *Collective memory of political events: Social psychological perspectives*. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

Basic format for articles:

Albrecht, D.G. (1995). Visual cortex neurons in monkey and cat: Effect of contrast on the spatial and temporal phase transfer functions. *Visual Neuroscience* 12, 1191-1210.

Citing Electronic Resources: generic reference for a webpage:

Johnson, C.W., Jr. (2000, January 31). How our laws are made. *Thomas*. Retrieved July 8, 2002, from <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/lawsmade.toc.html>

Online Scholarly Article:

Fine, M.A., & Kurdek, L.A. (1993). Reflections on determining authorship credit and authorship order on faculty-student collaborations. *American Psychologist*, 48, 1141-1147. Retrieved July 17, 2002, from <http://www.apa.org/journals/amp/kurdek.html>

Online Newspaper Article:

Cohen, E. (1997, January 17). Shrinks aplenty online but are they credible? *The New York Times*. Retrieved May 5, 2001, from <http://search.nytimes.com/>

Online Article in a Weekly or Biweekly Periodical:

Williams, S. (1998, September 21). Can magnets ease severe depression? Transcranial magnetic stimulation. *Newsweek*, 132, 107. Retrieved September 23, 1998 from <http://web.lexis-nexis.com/universe>

In-text citations for quotations and paraphrases:

In the text of your paper, use a shortened reference in parentheses to cite quotations and paraphrases from your sources. Your in-text reference should cite the author, work, and page number where your reader can find the information.

After the quotation, write the author's last name, the year of publication and the page number in parenthesis. **Example:** A recent study by University of Pennsylvania psychiatrist Martin Szuba suggests that "a magnet could combat depression" (Williams, 1998, p.107).

Or if you use the author's name in the text, follow the author's name with the year of publication in parentheses, and the page number at the end of the citation. Note that the period comes after the parenthetical reference. **Example:** According to Stephen Williams (1998), "a new therapy called transcranial magnetic stimulation" may prove to be a panacea for the chronically depressed (p.107).

If you summarize an author's work in your own words, you should still cite the source in your text. **Examples:**

Bond and Magistrate (1987) remind their readers that even within psychology, the appearance of a paper, whether or not it is filled with misspellings and other textual errors, matters to an audience (p. 134).

Editors for psychology and sociology publications are very concerned about the accuracy of the data authors present. They expect the piece to be clearly written, well articulated, and accurately referenced (Bond and Magistrate, 1987, p.13).

Note: There is also a new website designed to help students generate works cited pages for APA, as well as MLA, documentation styles. The website is called NoodleBib, and is brought to you by the UT Libraries and the Undergraduate Writing Center. Visit NoodleBib at <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/noodlebib/index.html>.