

How to Read and Prepare an APA Bibliographic Citation

When instructors ask you to write your paper according to *APA Style*, they are referring to the editorial style developed by The American Psychological Association (APA). Many of the social and behavioral sciences have adopted APA Style to present written material. APA's style rules and guidelines are set out in *The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*.

Basically, a typical APA citation has three parts: author, title and publication information. For titles of books and articles, capitalize only the first word of the title and subtitle (if any), and any proper nouns. You will need to present different information for the various materials you may cite in your paper. See below for examples.

Books

Herrnstein, R. J., & Murray, C. (1994). *The bell curve: Intelligence and class structure in American life*. New York: Free Press.

Author, A. A., & Author, B. B.* [If edited book add (Ed.) after editor, (Eds.) if more than one editor]. (Year). *Title of book*. City of Publication [If the city is not well known for publishing provide the state as well]: Publisher.

*If there are seven or more authors, list the first six, then add et. al.

Article/Chapter in an Edited Book

Kurzweil, E. (2008). Is psychoanalysis an art, a science, a religion, or a fraud? In J. P. Merlino, M.S. Jacobs, J.A. Kaplan, & K. L. Moritz (Eds.), *Freud at 150: 21st-Century essays on a man genius*. (pp.17-25). Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

Author, A. A. (Year). Title of article. In A. A. Editor, B. B. Editor, C.C. Editor, & D. D. Editor (Eds.), *Title of book*. (page numbers). City of Publication [If the city is not well known for publishing provide the state as well]: Publisher.

Article in a Magazine

Adler, J., Gray, E., & Kliff, S. (2009, April 20). In grip of the unknown. *News week*, 153(16), 43-47.

Author, A.A., Author, B.B., & Author, C.C. (Date of publication, year, month and day- no abbreviation). Title of article. *Magazine Title*(Issue number), page numbers.

Article in a Newspaper

Saul, S. (2008, October 8). Experts conclude Pfizer manipulated studies. *The New York Times*, p. B4.

Author, A. A. (Date of publication, year, month and day-no abbreviation). Title of article. *Complete Name of Newspaper*, Inclusive section and page number. Unlike other periodicals, p. or pp. precedes page numbers for a newspaper reference. Single pages take p. (e.g., p. B4); multiple pages take pp. (e.g., pp. B2, B4 or pp. C1, C3-C4). If an article appears on discontinuous pages, give all page numbers, and separate the numbers with a comma.



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Article in a Journal Paginated by Volume (Print & Electronic)

El-Bushra, J. (2007). Feminism, gender, and women's peace activism. *Development & Change*, 38, 131-147. doi:10.1111/j.1467-7660.2007.00406.x

Author, A. A. (Year). Title of article. *Title of Journal, Volume* (Issue number)*, page numbers. Digital object identifier (DOI). When DOIs are available, include them for both print and electronic resources. To find a DOI when it is not provided in the print or by electronic databases use CrossRef's free DOI finder <http://www.crossref.org/guestquery/>

*Pagination by volume begins on page one in issue one, and continues numbering in issue two where volume one ended. Pagination by issue begins with page one in every issue, therefore in journals paginated by issue, the issue number is included in parenthesis after the volume. The parenthesis and issue number are NOT italicized.

Non-periodical Website

List as much retrieval information as possible.

Sears, B. (n.d.). *How do I handle my 2-year old's temper tantrums?* Retrieved July 27, 2009, from <http://www.askdrsears.com/faq/db6.asp>

Author, A. A. (Date of publication). *Title of document*. Retrieved month day, year (only if the text may change over time), from <http://Web address>

When citing a Website with no author, date, or page numbers, you can include any of the following in the text of your paper to properly cite the quotation:

- A paragraph number, if provided, or count paragraphs down from the beginning of the document.
- An overarching heading plus a paragraph number within that section. Text citation would include the title (or short title) "n.d." for no date, and paragraph number.

Articles from a Database or Online

Magazine

Adler, J., Gray, E., & Kliff, S. (2009, April 20). In grip of the unknown. *Newsweek*, 153(16). Retrieved from <http://www.newsweek.com>

Newspaper

Saul, S. (2008, October 8). Experts Conclude Pfizer Manipulated Studies. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <http://www.nytimes.com>

If no DOI is assigned to the content and you retrieved it online, include the homepage URL for the journal, newspaper, or magazine in the reference. When referencing material obtained from an online database (such as a database in the library), provide appropriate print citation information, then add information that gives the periodical's URL. No retrieval date is needed.



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