APA Style 6th Edition Quick Reference

The examples below follow the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th ed., 2010 (APA-M). See pages 92 and 170-174 of the APA-M for information about direct quotations. Author-date citations, placed within the text, replace footnotes or endnotes. Two examples:

Martin (1984) urges roommates to settle differences...
In her list of rules for roommates (Martin, 1984)...

If a citation you need is not illustrated here, please ask for the APA Publication Manual at either the Reference Desk or the Reserves Desk.

Examples (All page numbers refer to the APA-M)

APA style reference pages are double-spaced throughout and use “hanging indent” format, meaning that the first line of each reference is set flush left and subsequent lines are indented.

Book by one author (p. 202-203)


Book by two to seven authors (for more than seven authors follow rule on p. 184)


Chapter in an Edited Book (p. 202)


Citation of a Work Discussed in a Secondary Source (p. 178)

Example of in-text citation: Glasser’s study (as cited in Ellis, 1999)...

When no author is given, regardless of the format, put the title in the author position.

Journal Article with Seven or Fewer Authors

In this example, “18” is the volume number, “3” is the issue number, and “5-18” are the page numbers.

Include the URL for open-access journals.

Journal Article with Eight or More Authors (pp. 198, 184, 175)


Newspaper Article (p. 200)


Magazine Article (p. 200)


Encyclopedia Article (pp. 204-205)


Government Document (p. 205-206)


Interviews and Personal Communications (pp. 179, 214)

Because they do not provide recoverable data, personal communications such as telephone conversations, email messages, and personal interviews are not included in the Reference list. In the text, give initials, surname of the communicator, and provide as exact a date as possible: (N. Schwartz, personal communication, April 1, 2001).


Miscellaneous online


An expanded edition of this APA Style Quick Reference, including examples of many other format types, is also available on the World Wide Web at: http://library.uncg.edu/depts/ref/handouts/apa.asp

Revised 08/09 (ILah)