APA Style—Reference List/In-Text

This handout is meant to give you a broad overview of the kind of information needed for a reference list page. It is by no means comprehensive. For specific information on documenting particular sources, consult a style guide such as *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* or *The Purdue Online Writing Lab*. When using the reference list information below, skip any information not provided by your source. For instance, if a book has no author, begin the entry with the title of the book followed by the date. To conserve space, the examples have been single-spaced; however, in an actual reference list, all entries should be double-spaced.

APA Reference List

Print Sources

**Book**
Author's last name, First initial. Middle initial. (Year of publication). *Title of the book*. City, State: Publisher.


**Chapter in a Book in a Series**
Author's last name, First initial. Middle initial. (Year of publication). Title of the chapter. In editor's name (Ed.), *Title of the Series: Title of the book* (pages of the chapter). City, State: Publisher.


**Periodical—Journal Paginated by Issue (Each issue begins on page 1.)**
Author's last name, First initial. Middle initial. (Year of publication). Title of the article. *Title of Periodical, Volume* (Issue), pages of the article.


**Periodical—Journal Paginated by Volume (Issues are paginated continuously. For example, the first page of volume 3 might be 369.)**
Author's last name, First initial. Middle initial. (Year of publication). Title of the article. *Title of Periodical, Volume*, pages of the article.


**Periodical—Magazines**
Author's last name, First initial. Middle initial. (Year, date of publication). Title of the article. *Title of Periodical, Volume*, pages of the article.

**Periodical—Newspapers**
Author's last name, First initial. Middle initial. (Year, date of publication). Title of the article. *Title of Periodical*, pages of the article.


**Electronic Sources**
Some electronic journal articles may have an alphanumeric code that can be used to locate the article online through Crossref. That code is called a Digital Object Identifier (DOI). All DOI numbers begin with 10. The DOI number is a more reliable way to locate an online journal article than a URL since webpage links are subject to change. Crossref acts as an intermediary, linking the DOI of the article to its location on the web. Give the DOI of the article if available; otherwise, give the URL of the journal homepage.

**Journal Article without DOI**
Author's last name, First initial. Middle initial. (Year of publication). Title of the article. *Title of Periodical, Volume*(Issue). Retrieved from URL of journal homepage


**Journal Article with DOI**
Author's last name, First initial. Middle initial. (Year of publication). Title of the article. *Title of Periodical, Volume*, pages of the article. DOI number


**Informally Published Work**
Author's last name, First initial. Middle initial. (Date of publication). Title of the document. Retrieved from URL


**APA In-Text**
APA uses an author-date system of in-text citation. Each of the samples below is followed by the entry that would appear on the reference list page.

**In-Text Citation for a Quotation**
Include the author's last name, the year of publication, and the page number.

*In-Text*
Szasz (2004) commented, "We are hypocrites if we ignore who the parties are that support the enactment of mental health laws and deny patients the option of rejecting psychiatric services" (p. 8).
or

"We are hypocrites if we ignore who the parties are that support the enactment of mental health laws and deny patients the option of rejecting psychiatric services" (Szasz, 2004, p. 8).

Reference List Entry

In-Text Citation for a Paraphrase or Summary
Include the author's last name and the year of publication. The page number is not required; however, it is recommended especially when citing a section from a long work.

In-Text
According to Meyer and Smith (1987), a beginning writer may use academic jargon incorrectly in an attempt to sound sophisticated. Part of a tutor's job, then, is to help that student develop his or her unique voice (p. 162).

or

A beginning writer may use academic jargon incorrectly in an attempt to sound sophisticated. Part of a tutor's job, then, is to help that student develop his or her unique voice (Meyer & Smith, 1987, p. 162).

Reference List Entry

Electronic Publications
Include the author's last name, the year of publication, and the paragraph number if visible. If the paragraph number is unavailable, simply provide the author's last name and the year of publication.

In-Text
Psychologists Seff, Gecas, and Frey (1993) argued that "research on birth order effects has been remarkably inconsistent and inconclusive with regard to various personality and behavioral outcomes."

Reference List Entry

No Author/No Date
Include a shortened title of the work (Use italics for books and periodicals; use regular font for articles and chapters.), the year of publication (If no publication date is available use the abbreviation n.d.), and the page number, if applicable.

In-Text
Merton asserted that the "lack of integration between what the culture calls for and what the structure permits . . . causes deviant behavior" (Merton's Strain, n.d.).

Reference List Entry


