



APA Style Basics



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What You Will Learn

- What is APA style?
- Why do I care about it?
- How do I actually do it?



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What is APA?

- It's a writing standard for presentation and organization of content and citing references.
- APA is used in social sciences, business, psychology and nursing.



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Why We Use APA

- Ideas are the currency of academia, and academics need to trace their origin.
- Failing to cite violates the rights of the person who originated the idea.
- Establish the author(s)' credibility.



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Why We Use APA

To summarize: We use proper APA style and formatting because it is respectful, organized and systematic.



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Major Paper Sections

- Title Page
- Abstract
- Main Body
- References



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Abstract

- An Abstract is a 150- to 250-word summary of the paper's key points. It should be written after you complete your paper.
- Abstracts should provide enough information for other researchers to determine whether the author's paper is relevant to their own research.



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APA Style

- Do not use first person (I, we, us, our) except in direct quotes.
- Try to use active voice not passive voice.
- Active voice example: The critic wrote a scathing review.
- Passive voice example: A scathing review was written by the critic.



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APA Style

- Avoid rhyming or other poetic devices.
- Use clear, plain language so you don't confuse the meaning.
- Academic writing is formal. We don't write like we talk.



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In-Text Citations – Basics

General Rule

Author's last name, year of publication (Author, year).

Two Authors

Research by Wegener and Petty (1994) supports ...

Research indicates that ... (Wegener & Petty, 1994).



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In-text Citations – Basics

Three to Five Authors

First time: (Kernis, Cornell, Sun, Berry, & Harlow, 2015)

Subsequent times: (Kernis et al., 2015)

Six or More Authors

Use et al. after the first author's name each time:

(Smith et al., 2017)



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In-Text Citations - Quotes

Short Quotations

(Author, year, p. xx) or (Author, year, para. xx)

According to Jones (1998), “Students often had difficulty using APA style, especially when it was their first time” (p. 199).

Jones (1998) found “students often had difficulty using APA style” (p. 199); what implications does this have for teachers?



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In-Text Citations - Quotes

Long Quotations

Quotes with 40 or more words: Indent the block, omit quote marks and double space all lines. NOTE: Unlike other in-text cites, the period goes at the end of the long quote, not after the final parenthesis.

Jones's (1998) study found the following:

Students often had difficulty using APA style, especially when it was their first time citing sources. This difficulty could be attributed to the fact that many students failed to purchase a style manual or to ask their teacher for help. (p. 199)



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In-Text Citations - Paraphrasing

When paraphrasing, APA only requires the author and year of publication. The page number is not required, but it is a good practice and helps to avoid plagiarism.

According to Jones (1998), APA style is a difficult citation format for first-time learners.

APA style is a difficult citation format for first-time learners (Jones, 1998).



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Reference List

- All lines after the first line of each entry should be one-half inch from the left margin.
- Alphabetize by author.
- Look up style for each type of publication.
- Pay attention to punctuation, and what should and should not be capitalized and italicized.



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References

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- Specter, M. (2009). *Denialism: How irrational thinking hinders scientific progress, harms the planet, and threatens our lives*. New York, NY: The Penguin Press.
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APA Links

The library provides a color-coded APA guide here: <http://liu.cwp.libguides.com/citapa>

For help on how to cite websites, go to this link <http://chapman.libguides.com/citations/apa> click on APA, and scroll down to APA Guide to Electronic Resources. You will need your Brandman ID# to download this guide.



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APA Links

For more help with APA, check out:

<http://www.apastyle.org/>

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

The OWC's Writing Resources page is here:

<https://www.brandman.edu/why-brandman/dedicated-resources/academic-support/online-writing-and-math-center/online-writing-center>



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Questions?

If you have any other questions about APA, please talk to your professor, review the APA manual or online resources, or make an appointment with an OWC professional tutor.

The OWC's home page is here:

<https://www.brandman.edu/why-brandman/dedicated-resources/academic-support/online-writing-and-math-center>

Thank you!



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