

Important items to remember for the reference page

- Double-space all entries
- Use a hanging indent
- Break URLs **before** punctuation marks (see *Publication manual* p. 192)
- Books – **italicize** titles and **capitalize** only the first word, the first word after a colon, and proper nouns (e.g., *Publication manual*)
- Periodicals—**italicize** titles and **capitalize** all important words (e.g., *Journal of Applied Biology*)
- Articles and short works—**do not italicize** and **capitalize** only the first word, the first word after a colon, and proper nouns
e.g., Hanson, R.K., Steffy, R.A., & Gauthier, R. (1993). Long-term recidivism of child molesters...
- Journals--**italicize** the journal title and the volume number, but **not** the issue number, and **do not leave a space** between the volume and the parenthesis:
e.g., Talub, R.S. (2000). Copyright, plagiarism, and Internet-based research projects: Three “golden rules.” *Tech Trends*, 44(4), 7-9.
- Journals with **DOI (digital object identifier)** – include the DOI instead of the URL (omit period at end)
e.g., Herbst-Damm, K. L., & Kulik, J. A. (2005). Volunteer support, marital status, and the survival times of terminally ill patients. *Health Psychology*, 24, 225-229. doi:10.1037/0278-6133.24.2.225

Important items to remember for in-text citations

- Use the **last names of authors** (not the first names) and **year** when discussing others’ work. (See author chart on p. 177 of the *Manual*)
e.g., The most recent study of the eating behaviors of porcupines revealed that ... (Smith, 2002).
e.g., Smith (2002) studied the eating behaviors of porcupines and found...
- In the same paragraph, do NOT repeat the year if you repeat the author's name in the sentence, but include the year in all parenthetical references in the same paragraph (see p. 174 in the *Manual*)
- Avoid including the title of the work within your text—UNLESS the work does not have an author. If no author is named, change the format of titles (see **No author** section below for examples)
- For **parenthetical citations and the reference list**, use the **ampersand (&)** for two-six authors:
e.g., (Smith, Jones, & Rogers, 2006)
- For **in-text sentences**, use the word “**and**”: Smith, Jones, and Rogers (2006) found ...
- Use commas and “p.” or “pp.” for page numbers:
e.g., One study found that rats “showed no sign of emotion” (Jones, 1999, p. 45).
- Page numbers are **required** for direct quotations (Smith, 2009, p. 45)
- APA **encourages** the inclusion of page, paragraph, chapter, or section numbers as a courtesy for easy access:
e.g., (Shimamura, 1989, Chapter 3)----NOTE: DO NOT ABBREVIATE "Chapter."
e.g., (Myers, 2000, para. 5) or (Myers, 2000, ¶ 5)
e.g., (Beutler, 2000, Conclusion section, para. 1)

Two authors

- In-text: cite **both** names **every** time the work is mentioned.
- Reference list: cite both names.
- When works have the same author/s and date, assign a letter on the reference page and use it in the text, too:
e.g., (Derryberry & Reed, 2005a, 2005b; Rothbart, 2003a, 2003b)

Three, four, or five authors

- In-text: cite **all names for the first reference, and** cite the **first author and “et al.”** in subsequent references.
- Reference list: Cite **all** names.

Six or seven authors

- In-text: cite only the name of the first author followed by “et al.” for all references.
- Reference list: provide the initials and surnames of the **all six or seven authors**.

More than seven authors

- In-text: cite only the name of the first author followed by “et al.” for all references.
- Reference list: provide the initials and surnames of the **first six authors**, insert an **ellipses**, and give the **last author's** name and initials (see example #2 at the bottom of p. 198 in the *Publication manual*).

Groups as authors

- Spell out the full title of long or easily-recognized groups and indicate the abbreviation for the first reference and abbreviate afterwards.
- Use brackets within parentheses: (National Institute of Mental Health [NIMH], 1999)...(NIMH, 1999)
- Use parentheses in the sentence: Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD, 1999) found that...

No author

- **Reference page**, alphabetize by the **first important** word in the title and place the year after the title.
- **Reference page**, only **capitalize** the first word, proper names, and the first word after a colon.
e.g., The new health-care lexicon. (1993, August/September). *Copy Editor*, 4, 1-2.
- In- text: use **quotation marks** and **capitalize** the important words in article titles:
e.g., The article, “The New Health-Care Lexicon,” (1992) discusses the...
e.g., ... (“The New Health-Care Lexicon,” 1993)
- In- text: **italicize** and **capitalize** book titles, periodical titles, and other major works:
e.g., ...the book *College Bound Seniors* (1979).

Anonymous

- Do not use “Anonymous” for the author’s name—except when the source uses it.
- On the reference list, use “Anonymous” for the author’s name and alphabetize under “A.”
- In the parenthetical citation, use it in place of the author’s name:
e.g., (Anonymous, 1998)

Secondary sources

- When possible, use primary sources.
- Otherwise place secondary sources on the reference page, but refer to the original study in your discussion, and include the secondary source in parentheses:
e.g., Skinner (2000) found no evidence of emotion in rats (as cited in Smith & Jones, 2006).

Personal communication, interviews, and standard classical/religious works (see pp. 178-179 in the *Manual*)

- Do not list them on the reference page, but cite them in the text.
e.g., T.K. Lutes (personal communication, April 18, 2001) found that ...
e.g., 1 Cor. 13:1 (Revised Standard Version)
e.g., (Qur'an 5:3-4)

Block quotations

- Indent/block quotations of 40 or more words.
- Indent ½” from the margin (5 spaces) and double-space.
- If there are additional paragraphs within the block, indent an additional ½”.
This is an example of a block quotation. Generally, direct quotations should be used sparingly in APA style. Studies are summarized and results are paraphrased, except when the author's original words are unique and difficult to put into different words. I will type another paragraph to illustrate the second indent.
The second paragraph looks strange, but the idea is to replicate the original text as closely as possible.

Lists

- To set off lists within a paragraph, use letters with parentheses (a), (b), (c), etc.
- In bulleted lists, use numerals/figures without parentheses if ordination is important; otherwise, bullets are acceptable:
 1. item
 2. item
 3. item

Running heads

- Include a running head in the header (beginning with the title page) of the manuscript; limit the head to 50 characters, counting letters, punctuation, and spaces between words.
- The running head is an **abbreviated title**, not necessarily the exact words.

Numbers

- Use figures for numbers 10 and above.
- Exceptions: use numbers with units of measurement or when low numbers are grouped with high numbers.

General

- Do not use “this present study” or “the current study” to refer to someone else’s work—use them to refer to your own study.
- Watch your tone—even when you disagree with or challenge a study, present the evidence in a polite tone:
e.g., Smith may have overlooked the importance of ...
- The longest part of a research report is usually the literature review/introduction.
- Use past tense (e.g. showed) or present perfect tense (e.g. have shown) for the literature review.
- Use past tense for results.
- Use present tense (e.g. results indicate) for conclusions and implications.
- Passive verbs are acceptable (the study was designed to...; the data were analyzed), but active verbs are preferred (the researchers designed the study to...)
- Do not use contractions.
- Avoid using verbs such as *feel, think, believe, stated, wrote, said, confirm, prove*—use *find, reason, assess, test, hypothesize, demonstrate, investigate, provide evidence, support* and *indicate*.
- Use qualifiers to allow for exceptions to your claims (*may, might, possible*): One possible explanation might be...One interpretation may be...The data suggest....The results appear to ...
- Use transitions: Notably,In contrast,....Similarly,....First,.... Second,....Third...
- Be concise: strive for clarity and economy of expression--use active voice (if possible) and use short phrases and words instead of wordy phrases.
 - The study was designed by Smith to = Smith (2001) designed a study to
 - Being that or since = because
 - Based on the fact that = because
 - The obtained results showed = The results showed
 - Participants for the study were = Participants were
 - Due to the fact that = Because
 - The reason is because = The reason is that
 - A total of eight participants = Eight participants

References

- American Psychological Association (2001). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.
- Szuchman, L.T. (2005). *Writing with style: APA style made easy*. 3rd ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.