

APA Citation Style QuickGuide

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Note: This guide is updated regularly. Instead of saving the PDF, please link [here](#) for the most current version.

This guide is based on the 7th edition (2020) of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. For further explanation and more examples, please consult the APA Manual, which is available in [print](#), and the [APA Style website](#).

Components of APA style

APA style includes in-text citations throughout your work and a reference list at the end of your work, which provides full details about your cited sources.

Reference list entries should be organized alphabetically and formatted with a hanging indent. They usually include the following elements (see APA Manual sec. 9.4 & [Website](#)):

Author	Who is responsible for this work?	E.g., Writer, editor, artist, director.
Date	When was this work published?	E.g., Year of publication for a book, date of update for a webpage.
Title	What is this work called?	E.g., Article title, book title, report title.
Source	Where can you find the work?	E.g., Publisher of a book, volume and issue of an article, DOI or URL of an online work.

In-text citations make brief reference to the complete citations in your reference list (see sec. 8.10).

- An in-text citation includes the author's surname and the year of publication. E.g., (Smith, 2019)
- You may place an in-text citation in parentheses at the end of a sentence or incorporate it into the text as part of your sentence (see sec. 8.11 & [Website](#)).
- Include page numbers only when you are quoting or referring to specific passages. E.g., (Smith, 2019, p. 22) (see sec. 8.13).

Using DOIs and URLs (see secs. 9.34-9.36 & [Website](#))

A DOI (digital object identifier) is a unique string of letters and numbers that refers to a specific article, ebook, or other online work. DOIs usually can be found on the first page of a work or on the information page about the work. You can also visit crossref.org to look up a DOI. Follow these rules for including DOIs and URLs in references:

- If a work has a DOI, include it in the reference, even if you used the print version. Do not include a URL.
- If an online work has no DOI:
 - If the work is on a website, include a URL directly to the work. You may use a URL shortening service for long links (see sec. 9.36).
 - If the work is within a library database, do not provide a URL.

How to Format Author Names (see secs. 8.14, 8.17, 9.8, & 9.12)

Author type	Beginning of reference list entry	In-text citation (parenthetical)	In-text citation (in your sentence)
1 author	Moore, T. R. (2014).	(Moore, 2014)	Moore (2014)
2 authors	Hubball, H., & West, D. (2013).	(Hubball & West, 2013)	Hubball and West (2013)
3-20 authors	Wolsink, I., Den Hartog, D. D., Belschak, F. D., & Oosterwijk, S. (2019).	(Wolsink et al., 2019)	Wolsink et al. (2019)
Organization	American Psychological Association. (1985).	(American Psychological Association [APA], 1985)*	American Psychological Association (APA, 1985)*
No author	<i>Narcissistic personality disorder</i> . (2019).**	(<i>Narcissistic Personality Disorder</i> , 2019)	<i>Narcissistic Personality Disorder</i> (2019)

*If you choose to abbreviate an organization's name, include the full name and abbreviation the first time you cite it. After that, only include the abbreviated name. E.g., (APA, 1985)

**For a work with no author, put the title in the author position (see secs. 8.14 & 9.12).

Source (in APA Manual)	Reference list entry	In-text citation (parenthetical)	In-text citation (in sentence)
Journal article with a DOI (See sec. 10.1 #1)	Mousseau, M. (2003). The nexus of market society, liberal preferences, and democratic peace: Interdisciplinary theory and evidence. <i>International Studies Quarterly</i> , 47(4), 483-510. https://doi.org/10.1046/j.0020-8833.2003.00276.x	(Mousseau, 2003)	Mousseau (2003)
Journal article on a website, with no DOI (See sec. 10.1 #2)	Bruce, N., & Lamb, L. (2019). The case of a home grown high-tech sector in a small Canadian city. <i>Journal of Rural and Community Development</i> , 14(3), 61-73. https://journals.brandonu.ca/jrcd/article/view/1653/388	(Bruce & Lamb, 2019, p. 64)	Bruce and Lamb (2019) ... (p. 64).
Journal article print or in a library database, with no DOI (See sec. 10.1 #3)	Hubball, H., & West, D. (2008). Silence and authentic reflection strategies: Holistic learning in an outdoor education program. <i>Physical & Health Education Journal</i> , 74(2), 12-14.	(Hubball & West, 2013)	Hubball and West (2013)
Journal article with article number (See sec. 10.1 #6)	Wolsink, I., Den Hartog, D. D., Belschak, F. D., & Oosterwijk, S. (2019). Do you feel like being proactive today? Trait-proactivity moderates affective causes and consequences of proactive behavior. <i>PLoS ONE</i> , 14(8), Article e0220172. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0220172	(Wolsink et al., 2019)	Wolsink et al. (2019)
Magazine article on a website (See sec. 10.1 #15)	Brownell, C. (2019, October 1). Where all the weed went. <i>Maclean's</i> . https://archive.macleans.ca/article/2019/10/1/where-all-the-weed-went	(Brownell, 2019)	Brownell (2019)
Magazine article print or in a library database, with no DOI (See sec. 10.1 #15)	Moyer, M. W. (2019, June). Vaccines reimagined. <i>Scientific American</i> , 320(6), 54-61. NOTE: Some magazines have volumes and issues, while others do not. If there is a volume and/or issue, include it in the reference.	(Moyer, 2019)	Moyer (2019)
Newspaper article on a website (See sec. 10.1 #16)	Heil, E. (2019, October 22). The pizza box hasn't evolved in decades, but now Pizza Hut is trying out a new round design. <i>The Washington Post</i> . https://wapo.st/35WJxUk	(Heil, 2019)	Heil (2019)
Newspaper article print or in a library database (See sec. 10.1 #16)	Hughes, L. (2006, October 26). Blue-box blues. <i>The Globe and Mail</i> , p. A20.	(Hughes, 2006)	Hughes (2006)

Source (in APA Manual)	Reference list entry	In-text citation (parenthetical)	In-text citation (in sentence)
Authored book with a DOI (See sec. 10.2 #20)	Gibson, R. (2020). <i>Desire in the age of robots and AI: An investigation in science fiction and fact</i> . Palgrave Macmillan. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-24017-2	(Gibson, 2020)	Gibson (2020)
Authored book print or in a library database, with no DOI (See sec. 10.2 #21)	Meikle, G. (2016). <i>Social media: Communication, sharing and visibility</i> . Routledge.	(Meikle, 2016)	Meikle (2016)
Ebook on a website, with no DOI (See sec. 10.2 #22)	Marks, D. F., Murray, M., & Estacio, E. V. (2018). <i>Health psychology: Theory, research and Practice</i> (5 th ed.). https://amazon.ca/Health-Psychology-Theory-Research-Practice-ebook/dp/B0785M2VS9	(Marks et al., 2018)	Marks et al. (2018)
Book, specific edition with a DOI (See sec. 10.2 #31)	Cohen, D. (2017). <i>How the child's mind develops</i> (3rd ed.). Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315201375	(Cohen, 2017)	Cohen (2017)
Edited book print or in a library database, with no DOI (See sec. 10.2 #25)	Shulman, D., & Stroumsa, G. G. (Eds.). (1999). <i>Dream cultures: Explorations in the comparative history of dreaming</i> . Oxford University Press.	(Shulman & Stroumsa, 1999)	Shulman and Stroumsa (1999)
Chapter in an edited book with a DOI (See sec. 10.3 #38)	Ward, L. M., & Harrison, K. (2005). The impact of media use on girls' beliefs about gender roles, their bodies, and sexual relationships: A research synthesis. In E. Cole & J. Henderson (Eds.), <i>Featuring females: Feminist analyses of media</i> (pp. 3-23). American Psychological Association. https://doi.org/10.1037/11213-001	(Ward & Harrison, 2005, pp. 4-5)	Ward and Harrison (2005) ... (pp. 4-5)
Chapter in an edited book print or in a library database, with no DOI (See sec. 10.3 #39; see sec. 9.8 for directions on hyphenated first names)	Li, W.-Y. (1999). Dreams of interpretation in early Chinese historical and philosophical writings. In D. Shulman & G. G. Stroumsa (Eds.), <i>Dream cultures: Explorations in the comparative history of dreaming</i> (pp. 17-42). Oxford University Press.	(Li, 1999)	Li (1999)

Source (in APA Manual)	Reference list entry	In-text citation (parenthetical)	In-text citation (in sentence)
Encyclopedia or dictionary entry with editor but no author print or in a library database, with no DOI (See secs. 8.14, 9.12, & 10.3 #47)	Population control. (2008). In W. A. Darity, Jr. (Ed.), <i>International encyclopedia of the social sciences</i> (2nd ed., Vol. 6, pp. 377-378). Gale.	("Population Control," 2008)	"Population Control" (2008)
Encyclopedia or dictionary entry with author on a website, with no DOI (See sec. 8.28 & 10.3 #48)	Douglas, J. (2017, June 12). Arlene Dickinson. In <i>The Canadian encyclopedia</i> . https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/arlene-dickinson	(Douglas, 2017, para. 4) NOTE: When quoting a source with no page numbers, provide a section heading or paragraph number instead.	Douglas (2017) ... (para. 4)
Government or organization report with group author on a website (See sec. 10.4 #50 & #54)	City of Camrose. (2019). <i>2019 annual report</i> . https://www.camrose.ca/en/your-government/resources/Documents/2019-Report-to-the-Community.pdf	(City of Camrose, 2019)	City of Camrose (2019)
Government or organization report with individual author on a website (See sec. 10.4 #51)	MacLaurin, B., Trocmé, N., Fallon, B., Pitman, L., & McCormack, M. (2003). <i>Northwest Territories incidence study of reported child abuse and neglect, NWTIS-2003: Major findings</i> . University of Calgary. https://cwrp.ca/sites/default/files/publications/NWTIS2003_en_0.pdf	(MacLaurin et al., 2003)	MacLaurin et al. (2003)
Dissertation or thesis in a library database (See sec. 10.6 #65)	Leonard, W. H. (2018). <i>Living in an unreal world: Fake news, social identity theory, and media literacy</i> (Publication No. 10976562) [Master's thesis, University of Alabama]. ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global.	(Leonard, 2018)	Leonard (2018)
Canadian statute (See sec. 11.5 #8, APA Manual, & sec. 2.1, <i>Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation</i>)	Privacy Act, RSC 1985, c P-21 (1985). https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/P-21/index.html	(Privacy Act, 1985)	Privacy Act (1985)
Film or video (See sec. 10.12 #84)	Mangold, J. (Director). (1999). <i>Girl, interrupted</i> [Film]. Columbia Pictures. NOTE: If you watched a particular version of the film, you may specify that as part of the format. E.g., [Film; three-disc special edition].	(Mangold, 1999)	Mangold (1999)
TV episode (See sec. 9.29 & 10.12 #87)	Shelton, L. (Director), Schur, M. (Writer), & Law, A. (Writer). (2017, September 21). What's my motivation (Season 1, Episode 11) [TV series episode]. In M. Schur, D. Miner, M. Sackett, & D. Goddard, (Executive Producers), <i>The good place</i> . Fremulon; 3 Arts Entertainment; Universal Television.	(Shelton et al., 2017)	Shelton (2017)

Source (in APA Manual)	Reference list entry	In-text citation (parenthetical)	In-text citation (in sentence)
Streaming video (See sec. 10.12 #90)	CBN News. (2015, August 24). <i>Slowing down Alzheimer's one exercise at a time</i> [Video]. Youtube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iTYAgcqlJE NOTE: For retrieval purposes, the uploader is considered the author even if they did not create the work.	(CBN News, 2015)	CBN News (2015)
Slides or lecture notes on eClass or a website (See sec. 10.14 #102)	Jones, S. (2019, January 22). <i>An introduction to the limbic system</i> [PowerPoint Slides]. eClass. https://eclass.srv.ualberta.ca/ NOTE: If the slides or notes are on a site that requires a login (e.g., eClass), provide a URL to the login page. If not, provide a URL directly to the slides or notes.	(Jones, 2019)	Jones (2019)
Webpage with personal author (See sec. 10.16 #112)	Moore, T. R. (2018, April 11). <i>Diabetes mellitus and pregnancy</i> . Medscape. http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/127547-overview	(Moore, 2018)	Moore (2018)
Webpage with group author (See sec. 10.16 #111)	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2019, September 5). <i>Anxiety and depression in children</i> . https://www.cdc.gov/childrensmentalhealth/depression.html NOTE: When the author and the title of the website are the same, omit the website title.	First citation: (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2014)	First citation: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC, 2014)
Webpage with no date with group author (See sec. 9.16, 9.17, & 10.16 #114)	Pfizer. (n.d.). <i>Ongoing vaccine research at Pfizer</i> . Retrieved October 28, 2019, from https://www.pfizer.com/science/vaccines/research	(Pfizer, n.d.)	Pfizer (n.d.)
Webpage with no known author (See secs. 8.14, 9.12, & 10.16 #112)	<i>Narcissistic personality disorder</i> . (2019, February 7). Psychology Today. https://www.psychologytoday.com/ca/conditions/narcissistic-personality-disorder	(<i>Narcissistic Personality Disorder</i> , 2019)	<i>Narcissistic Personality Disorder</i> (2019)
Social media post (See sec. 10.15 #103)	Obama, B. [@POTUS44]. (2015, June 26). <i>Today is a big step in our march toward equality. Gay and lesbian couples now have the right to marry</i> [Tweet]. Twitter. https://twitter.com/POTUS44/status/614435467120001024 NOTE: Begin the reference with the user's real name, if known, followed by the screen name in square brackets. In place of a title, provide the content of the post, up to the first 20 words.	(Obama, 2015)	Obama (2015)
Personal communications (See sec. 8.9)	NOTE: Personal communications are works that cannot be recovered by readers. They include emails, letters, personal interviews, phone conversations, unrecorded lectures, and more. Personal communications are cited only in the text and not in your reference list.	(J.T. Smith, personal communication, September 24, 2019)	J.T. Smith (personal communication, September 24, 2019)

Sample Reference List

References

- Brownell, C. (2019, October 1). Where all the weed went. *Maclean's*. <https://archive.macleans.ca/article/2019/10/1/where-all-the-weed-went>
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<https://journals.brandonu.ca/jrcd/article/view/1653/388>
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<https://wapo.st/35WJxUk>
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- Meikle, G. (2016). *Social media: Communication, sharing and visibility*. Routledge.
- Moore, T. R. (2018, April 11). *Diabetes mellitus and pregnancy*. Medscape. <http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/127547-overview>
- Mousseau, M. (2003). The nexus of market society, liberal preferences, and democratic peace: Interdisciplinary theory and evidence. *International Studies Quarterly*, 47(4), 483-510. <https://doi.org/10.1046/j.0020-8833.2003.00276.x>
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Twitter. <https://twitter.com/POTUS44/status/614435467120001024>
- Pfizer. (n.d.). *Ongoing vaccine research at Pfizer*. Retrieved October 28, 2019, from <https://www.pfizer.com/science/vaccines/research>
- Population control. (2008). In W. A. Darity, Jr. (Ed.), *International encyclopedia of the social sciences* (2nd ed., Vol. 6, pp. 377-378). Gale.
- Shelton, L. (Director), Schur, M. (Writer), & Law, A. (Writer). (2017, September 21). What's my motivation (Season 1, Episode 11) [TV series episode]. In M. Schur, D. Miner, M. Sackett, & D. Goddard (Executive Producers), *The good place*. Fremulon; 3 Arts Entertainment; Universal Television.

Anatomy of a Citation

This example describes the elements of a citation. It is based on a journal article with a DOI.

