## APA Guidelines 6th Edition

### Table with Citation Examples*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
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**In-Text Citation**

APA adds to MLA style by including page number(s), and date. The date is generally provided parenthetically next to author(s’) names, while page numbers always appear parenthetically at the ends of sentences.

If the author’s name is also parenthetical, then the entire citation appears at the end of the sentence in the form (author’s last name, date, p.#).

Two authors: For signal phrases use “and,” and to list multiple authors parenthetically use an ampersand (&).

Three to five authors: List all the authors’ names the first time they are mentioned. In subsequent citations use the first author’s name followed by “et al.”

Six or more authors: Use just the first author’s last name and “et al”.

If there is no author, mention the title in-text, or use the first few words of the title in parentheses.

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*Table adapted from the Purdue OWL: Citation Chart updated 2014
In-text citation information from *A Pocket Style Manual* eight edition by Dian Hacker and Nancy Sommers

This is only a partial list of commonly cited sources. For information on citing other sources look to a style manual such as *A Pocket Style Manual* 7th (or 8th) edition by Diana Hacker and Nancy Sommers or an online resource such as Perdue OWL.

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The following pages give a brief example of how to format an APA paper with a title page, abstract, the first page or a paper, and a references page. More information about formatting and APA style is explained within the text.
You only need to write “running head” on the title page, and you use a shortened version of your paper title.

Title of Your Paper:

An Example of APA Style

Author’s first name, middle initial(s), and last name

Institutional affiliation
Abstract

Your abstract should begin on a new page and include the page header/running head. The word “Abstract” should be typed on the first line. It should be centered and not bolded, underlined, italicized, or put in quotations. The abstract should not be indented. The content of your abstract should summarize your research, including your topics, questions, methods, results, analysis, conclusions, and implications. It should be one paragraph, double-spaced, and between 150 and 250 word. Any terms, such as American Psychological Association (APA), should be defined in your abstract. You may also list key words, as demonstrated here.

Keywords: abstract, research, American Psychological Association
Like MLA and Chicago, APA style allows for consistency within a discipline and insures that sources are appropriately cited. According to Diana Hacker and Nancy Sommers (2015), the main aspects of writing an APA-style paper are “supporting a thesis, citing your sources and avoiding plagiarism, and integrating quotations and other source material” (p. 175). However, this is the same assertion they make about MLA and Chicago style. Also like MLA and Chicago, APA papers are typed, double-spaced, with one inch margins, and 12 point Times New Roman font (Angeli et al., 2010). So in order to understand the differences, we have to consider the goals and values of the discipline that most utilizes APA style: the social sciences. Because fields in this discipline value a clear, straightforward presentation of research as well timeliness, APA style’s use of headings and the inclusion of dates in citation make it perfect for social science research papers.

**Level 1 Heading**

There is a hierarchy to headings in APA style that helps the writer organize their ideas. Level one headings are centered, bolded, and each word is capitalized. These headings are used to set off larger sections of the paper, such as “methods,” “conclusions,” or “discussion.”

**Level 2 Heading**

A level two heading further designates different sections within a level one heading. They are flushed to the left of the page, bolded, and each word is capitalized.

**Level 3 heading.** Level three headings are indented ½ inch from the margin, bolded, and only the first word is capitalized. They are placed in line with the section they designate, with no space between the heading and the paragraph.
References


Your references should be double spaced with a hanging indent and organized alphabetically with no numbering or extra space between references.