

Writing and Tutorial Center

Citation Style: APA

APA style is widely used in the social and behavioral sciences. The American Psychological Association (APA) was founded in 1892 and now is the largest scientific and professional organization which represents psychology in the United States, with more than 172,000 researchers, professionals and students as its members. APA citation guidelines were initially published in 1929 with the 7th and most recent edition in 2020 (American Psychological Association, 2008).

APA dictates not only citation format but also the formatting of the whole paper. Professors are mostly concerned with your sources, but professional publications can be very strict. The basic layout will have:

New Times Roman (or similarly clear typeface)

Size 12 font

Double-spaced

1 inch margins

Page numbers in the top left corners

Every paragraph is indented

Block quotes have additional indent

Additional specifications exist for formatting [headings and subheadings](#), for example, but this overview covers the essentials of APA style.

IN-TEXT CITATION

In addition to a reference list at the end of the paper, APA requires in-text citations. An APA in-text citation includes the author's last name and the publication year. Include a page number when citing a specific part of the source. The author can be mentioned in the sentence itself (narrative citation) or in the parenthetical (parenthetical citation). For example:

EXAMPLE

Solnit (2009, p. 6) argues “disasters provide an extraordinary window into social desire and possibility.”

This essay will examine the claim that “disasters provide an extraordinary window into social desire and possibility” (Solnit, 2009, p. 6).

In addition to the in-text citation, there is also a citation for the reference list at the end of the paper. Below is the citation for the above source, as well as the general format for books.

EXAMPLE

Solnit, R. (2009). *A Paradise Built Hell*. Penguin Publishing Group.

Last Name, First Initial. (Publication Year). *Title of Book*. Publisher.

	Citation	Example
Book with Multiple Authors	Last Name, Initial., & First Name Last Name. (Year). <i>Title</i> . Publisher. or for 3+ authors: Last Names and Initials with Last Author Name preceded by &. (Year). <i>Title</i> . Publisher.	Graeber, D., & David Wengrow. (2021). <i>The Dawn of Everything</i> . Allen Lane. Adelman, J., Pollard, E., Rosenberg, C., & Tignor, R. (2015). <i>Worlds Together, Worlds Apart</i> . W. W. Norton & Company.
Translated Book	Last Name, Initial. (Year) <i>Title</i> (Translator First Initial, Last Name, Trans.). Publisher.	Homer. (2018). <i>The Odyssey</i> (E. Wilson, Trans.). W. W. Norton & Company.
Article / Magazine	Last Name, Initial. (Year). Title of Article. <i>Title of Periodical</i> , volume number (issue number), pages.	Harris, D. (2011). Case Study Utopia and Architectural Photography. <i>American Art</i> , vol. 25, no. 2, pp. 18-21.
Web Source	Last Name, Initial. <i>Title of Page</i> . (Year, Month Date). Site Name, Retrieved Month Date, Year, URL .	<i>About the Soil & Water Conservation Committee</i> . Department of Agriculture and Markets, Retrieved May 27, 2025, https://agriculture.ny.gov/soil-and-water/about-soil-water-conservation-committee .
Art Piece	Last Name, Initial. (Year). <i>Title</i> [Format]. Museum, Location.	Sargent, J. S. (1884). <i>Madam X</i> [Painting]. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.
Photograph	Last Name, Initial. (Year). <i>Image Title</i> [Format]. Site Name. URL .	Adams, A. (1942). <i>Canyon de Chelly</i> [Photograph]. National Archives. https://catalog.archives.gov/id/519852 .
Movie	Director Last Name, Initial. (Director). (Year). <i>Title</i> [Film]. Production Company.	Coogler, R. (Director). (2025). <i>Sinners</i> [Film]. Proximity Media.

If you are referring to a source that you have found in another source, always try to access the original or **primary source**. However, if you cannot find the original source, cite it through the secondary source that led you to it, using the phrase “as cited in”.

Example: (Parker, 1978, as cited in Bloom et al., 2017)

["APA History"](#) from the American Psychological Association.

For more information see [Scribbr's APA Guide & Generator](#) or [Easybib's APA Citation Guide](#).