APA Style for Electronic Sources  
(American Psychological Association)

This guide provides basic guidelines and examples for citing electronic sources using the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th edition and the APA Style for Electronic Sources (2008). APA style requires that sources receive attribution in the text by the use of parenthetical in-text references. General guidelines for in-text references are included on the last page of this guide.

Where available, the doi (digital object identifier) number should be used to provide access information for electronic materials. URLs may be included for resources that do not have a doi number. The names of full-text databases and rarely necessary in an APA citation. Retrieval date information should only be included when the page/site/information is likely to change.

### Journal Articles

| Article with DOI | Format: Author Last, First Initial. (Year of Publication). Article title. *Journal Title*, volume # (issue number), start page-end page. doi: alphanumeric string |

| Article without DOI | Format: Author Last, First Initial. (Year of Publication). Article title. *Journal Title*, volume # (issue number), start page-end page. Retrieved from URL |

| Advance Online Publication | Format: Author Last, First Initial. (Year of Publication). Article title. *Journal Title*, volume # (issue number), start page-end page. Advance online publication. doi: alphanumeric string or URL |
| Note: In the following sample, the text includes neither page numbers nor a doi number. Therefore, the page number component is not included and the URL is substituted for the doi. |
### In-press article, retrieved from institutional or personal Web site

**Format:**
Author Last, First Initial. (in press). Article title. *Journal Title*. Retrieved from doi or URL

**Sample Citation:**

### Manuscript in preparation, retrieved from institutional or personal Web site

**Format:**

**Note:** The initials n.d. (no date) are included here in lieu of the publication date.

**Sample Citation:**

### Electronic Books

#### Entire Book

**Format:**
Author Last, First Initial. (Year). *Title*. Retrieved from URL

**Sample Citation:**

#### Book Chapter

**Format:**
Author Last, First Initial. (Year). Chapter title. In First Initial Last Name & First Initial Last Name (Eds.), *Book title* (pp. start page-end page). doi: alphanumeric string

**Note:** Use a doi number if available. If a number is not available, do not provide retrieval information for book chapters. See sample.

**Sample Citation:**
### Dissertation and Theses

| **Thesis retrieved from database** | **Format:**

Author Last, First Initial. (Year). *Title*. Retrieved from database name. (accession number if available)

**Sample Citation:**

Houck, A.M. *If God is God: Laughter and the divine in ancient Greek and modern Christian literature*. Retrieved from ProQuest Digital Dissertations. (AAl9990560)

| **Dissertation defense** | **Format:**

Author Last, First Initial. (Year, Month Day of Pub). *Title* [Format of defense] (Dissertation defense, University Name). Name. Retrieved from URL

**Sample Citation:**


### Abstracts

| **Abstract as original source** | **Format:**

Author Last, First Initial. (Year, Month Day of Pub). *Title*. [Abstract]. Retrieved from name of database.

**Note:** If a publication number is assigned to the abstract, it may be included in parentheses after the title. See sample.

**Sample Citation:**


| **Abstract submitted for meeting, symposium, or poster session** | **Format:**

Author Last, First Initial. Title of Article. (Year, Month Day). Title of abstract. In First Initial Last Name of authority (Title of Authority), *Title of Meeting, Symposium, or Poster Session*. Type of meeting conducted at the name of sponsoring meeting or conference. Abstract retrieved from URL

**Sample Citation:**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Abstract from secondary source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Format:</strong> Author Last, First Initial. (Year). Article title. <em>Journal Title</em> volume # (issue number if available), start page-end page. Abstract retrieved from secondary source name.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Bibliographies

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Bibliography from Web site</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Format:</strong> Author Last, First Initial. (Year of Pub). <em>Title</em>. Retrieved from Name of Source: URL.</td>
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</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Bibliography from courseware</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Format:</strong> Last Name, First Initials of Author. (Year of Pub). <em>Title of course</em> [Bibliography]. Retrieved from Name of University and Courseware Product/Site: URL.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sample Citation:</strong> Johnston, S.L. (2004). <em>French resources on the web</em> [Bibliography]. Retrieved from Trinity University BlackBoard site: <a href="http://bb.trinity.edu">http://bb.trinity.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Book Reviews and Journal Article Commentaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Book Review</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Format:</strong> Author Last, First Initial. (Year of Publication). Title of review [Review of the book <em>Title of book</em>, <em>Journal Title</em>, volume # (issue # if available), inclusive page numbers or location on the web page]. Retrieved from URL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Peer Commentary

**Format:**
Author Last, First Initial. (Year of Pub). *Title of commentary* [Peer commentary on the journal article “Title of article”]. Retrieved Month Day, Year, from URL

**Note:** If the title of the item under review is clear from the title of the review, then the bracketed explanation is not necessary.

**Sample Citation:**

### Curriculum and Course Materials

#### Curriculum Guide

**Format:**
Author Last, First Initial. (Year of Publication). *Title*. Retrieved from host web site name: URL.

**Sample Citation:**

#### Lecture Notes

**Format:**
Author Last, First Initial. (Year of Pub). *Title* [format of notes]. Retrieved from host web site name: URL.

**Sample Citation:**

### Raw Data

#### Data Set

**Format:**
Author Last, First Initial or Corporate Author Name. (Year of Publication). *Title*. [Format of data]. Available from Name of source site: URL

**Sample Citation:**

#### Graphic Representation of Data

**Format:**
Author Last, First Initial or Corporate Author Name. (Year of Pub). [Description of graphic representation of data]. *Title of source*. Retrieved from URL

**Sample Citation:**
## Qualitative data

**Format:**
Author Last, First Initial (Responsibility) and Subject Last, First Initial (Responsibility). (Year of Publication). *Title of collected data* [Format of data]. Retrieved from Name of web site: URL

**Note:** Interviews conducted one-on-one that have not been preserved in print or other formats should be cited in text as a personal communication. Data that cannot be retrieved is not included in the list of references.

**Sample Citation:**

## Reference Materials

### Online Encyclopedia

**Format:**
Author Last, First Initial. (Year of Publication). Title of entry. In First Initial Last Name of editor (Ed.), *Title*. Retrieved Month Day, Year, from URL of index or main page of encyclopedia

**Note:** If no author is listed for an entry, include the title of the entry first in the citation.

**Sample Citation:**

### Online Dictionary

**Format:**
Title of entry. (Year of Publication). In *Title of dictionary*. Retrieved Month Day, Year, from URL of index or main page of dictionary

**Sample Citation:**

### Online Handbook

**Format:**
Author Last, First Initial. (Year of Publication). Title of entry. In First Initial Last Name of editor (Ed.), *Title*. Retrieved Month Day, Year, from URL of index or main page of handbook

**Note:** If no author is listed for an entry, include the title of the entry first in the citation.

**Sample Citation:**

### Wiki

**Format:**
Title of entry. (n.d.). Retrieved Month Day, Year, from Title of Wiki: URL

**Note:** Wikis are collaboratively authored, rarely signed, and always changing. Therefore, author and publication date are not required.

**Sample Citation:**
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<th>Format:</th>
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<td>Format:</td>
<td>Author Last, First Initial or Corporate Author Name. (Year, Month Day of Publication). Title [Press release]. Retrieved from URL</td>
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<td>Sample Citation:</td>
<td>Department of Athletics, Trinity University. (2008, January 7). Trinity wins Pontiac game changing performance of the year award [Press release]. Retrieved from <a href="http://www.trinity.edu/departments/athletics/Football/Pontiac_GCPOY.htm">http://www.trinity.edu/departments/athletics/Football/Pontiac_GCPOY.htm</a></td>
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<th>Format:</th>
<th>Author Last, First Initial or Corporate Author Name. (Year of Publication). Title (Policy No. if available). Retrieved from URL</th>
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<th>Format:</th>
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<th>Format:</th>
<th>Author Last, First Initial or Corporate Author Name. (Year of Publication). Title [White paper]. Retrieved from URL</th>
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<tr>
<th>Format:</th>
<th>Author Last, First Initial or Corporate Author Name. (Year of Publication). Title of Article. Title of Newsletter, volume # (issue #). Retrieved from URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sample Citation:</td>
<td>Seiden, Peggy. (2006). Library survey evaluates service. @library.edu, the Swarthmore College library newsletter, 8(2). Retrieved from <a href="http://www.swarthmore.edu/Documents/library/spring06.pdf">http://www.swarthmore.edu/Documents/library/spring06.pdf</a></td>
</tr>
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</table>

**General Interest Media and Alternative Presses**

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<tr>
<th>Format:</th>
<th>Author Last, First Initial. (Year, Month Day of Publication). Article title. Newspaper Name. Retrieved from URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
### Television feature, podcast

**Format:**  
Author Last, First Initial, & Author Last, First Initial (Author Responsibility). (Year of Pub). *Title of television feature* [Motion picture]. In First Initial Last Name (Role of Presenter), *Title of program*. Podcast retrieved from Name of host site: URL  

**Sample Citation:**  

### Audio podcast

**Format:**  
Author Last, First Initial (Author Responsibility). (Year, Month Day of Publication). Title of podcast [Podcast identification number if available]. *Podcast series Name*. Podcast retrieved from URL  

**Sample Citation:**  

### Online magazine content not found in print version

**Format:**  
Author Last, First Initial. (Year of Pub). Title of article [Online exclusive]. *Title of Magazine*. Retrieved Month Day, Year, from URL  

**Sample Citation:**  

### Online Communities

#### Message posted to a newsgroup, online forum, or discussion group

**Format:**  
Author Last, First Initial. (Year, Month Day of posting). Title of post [post number if available]. Message posted to URL  

**Sample Citation:**  

#### Message posted to an electronic mailing list

**Format:**  
Author Last, First Initial. (Year, Month Day of Pub). Title of post [Msg. # if available]. Message posted to Name of List, archived at URL  

**Note:** Since messages in an e-mail list are posted through email, the URL should direct readers to the web site or page where the messages have been archived.  

**Sample Citation:**  
## Weblog post

**Format:**
Author Last, First Initial. (Year, Month Day of Publication). Title. Message posted to URL

**Sample Citation:**

## Video Weblog post

**Format:**
Author Last, First Initial. (Year, Month Day of Publication). Title [Format of post]. Video posted to URL

**Note:** If the author’s name is not provided, the screen name of the posting author may be used instead.

**Sample Citation:**

## Computer Programs, Software, and Programming Languages

## Software downloaded from a Web site

**Format:**
Author Last, First Initial. (Year of Publication). Name of product [format of product]. Available from Name of source: URL Title

**Sample Citation:**
In-Text Parenthetical References in APA Style

To cite the use of a source in the text of an essay, APA advocates two methods: parenthetical citation and attribution within the essay’s content. Parenthetical references should be included immediately after the quotation marks used in direct quotations or immediately after the use of the source, even if this means including the parenthetical reference in the middle of the sentence. The following is the general form for parenthetical citations in APA style:

Parenthetical Citation: (Author Last Name, Year of Publication)
Example: (Smith, 1988)

To make the citation of the source less distracting, the APA also suggests mentioning the author in the essay’s content so that only the year of publication and page number may be required in the parenthetical reference.

Attribution in text: Author Last Name (Year of Publication) has argued this point.
Example: Smith (1988) has argued this point.

Page numbers are not required in APA in-text citation. However, it is highly suggested that these be included. To include references to a specific part of the text, add the page number or chapter number after the year.

Examples: Smith (1988, p. 244) has written that... or Smith (1988, chap. 5) has written that...

When a work has two authors, both names should be cited in every parenthetical reference. Use an ampersand (&) to separate the names of authors. If a work has three or four authors, all authors should be included in the first parenthetical reference. After the first parenthetical reference, only the last name of the first author and the phrase “et al.” may be used.

First mention of the reference: Johnson, Smith, and Brown (1999) agree that...
Subsequent mention: Johnson et al. (1999) also argue...

If a text has been authored by more than five individuals, the full listing of authors is not required in the first reference or any subsequent in-text references.

If a group or corporation is the author, the full name of the group or corporation should be included in place of an author’s name. If an organization has a recognizable abbreviation, this may be used in subsequent references.

First mention of the reference: (American Medical Association, 2002)
Subsequent mention: (AMA, 2002)

If no author is given for a specific text, use the first few words of the title in place of the author’s last name. Title fragments should be formatted using the same punctuation as titles on the References page. Here are two examples of attribution using titles instead of author names:

The recent publication Plagiarism and You (2002) offers some explanation...
In "Five Ways to Protect Yourself" (2000) one can find...

Examples of parenthetical attribution:

(Plagiarism and You, 2002) or ("Five Ways to Protect Yourself," 2000)

When no date is given for the publication of a text (as is the case with many websites), include the abbreviation “n.d.” in place of the year of publication.

For more information see the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th ed. (pages 174-179).