



Frequently Asked Questions

Here are some of the frequently asked questions about APA style that people have sent in to our online tutors or asked on our grammar hotline.

I have a question about using parenthetical citations. I know that I am supposed to use shortened version of the title on each article (web page), but several of them have same titles. What do I do?

You need to somehow distinguish between the web pages in the parenthetical citations even if they have the same title. Usually, the author's last name can be used in addition to the shortened form of the title. If none of the web pages have authors, are the sponsors of the page different? If so, use that to distinguish between the pages. If not, are the update dates different? Try to find some way to distinguish the two.

Are magazine titles italicized or placed in quotation marks?

Magazine titles are italicized. Articles from magazines are placed in quotation marks when they are referenced in the body of your work and left as-is when referenced in a reference list entry.

I'm quoting a source that was quoted in another source. How do I cite the source in my text and in my reference list?

Give the secondary source in the references list; in the text, name the original work, and give a citation for the secondary source. For example, if Seidenberg and McClelland's work is cited in Coltheart et al. and you did not read the original work, list the Coltheart et al. reference in the References. In the text, use the following citation:

In Seidenberg and McClelland's study (as cited in Coltheart, Curtis, Atkins, & Haller, 1993), ...

In the references list, cite the secondary source. For example, the secondary source for the source in the example above would be as follows:

Coltheart, M., Curtis, B., Atkins, P., & Haller, M. (1993). Models of reading aloud: Dual-route and parallel-distributed-processing approaches. *Psychological Review*, 100, 589-608.

How do I cite a brochure?

Format references to brochures in the same way that you would format references to entire books, but identify the publication as a brochure in brackets before the publication information. Here's an example of a brochure citation.

Research and Training Center on Independent Living. (1993). *Guidelines for reporting and writing about people with disabilities* (4th ed.) [Brochure]. Lawrence, KS: Author.

How do I cite a document I retrieved from ERIC?

You can find the APA ERIC citation format on page 257 of the *APA Publication Manual*, 5th Edition. Generally, the citation form is the same as for a printed source, but with the ERIC document number in parentheses at the end. No URL is necessary.

For example: [regular citation information here]. (ERIC Document Reproduction Service No.

ED486790).

How do I cite an interview I conducted?

Here's what the APA Manual (5th ed.) says about personal communication (section 3.102): "Personal communications may be letters, memos, some electronic communications, telephone conversations, and the like. Because they do not provide recoverable data, personal communications are not included on the reference list. Cite personal communications **in text only**. Give the initials as well as the surname of the communicator, and provide as exact a date as possible." For example: N.E. Migan (personal communication, January 11, 2001)

How do I cite a radio program I listened to?

Alter the television listing citation format to fit the radio program. Include the same information but substitute the radio station and name of the program for the TV info.

What is the standard APA style for a handout given by a speaker at a conference?

There isn't an APA section that specifically deals with conference speaker handouts, so I would refer you to the Unpublished Work information in the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, which includes a guide for an unpublished paper presented at a meeting. The example is as follows:

Lanktree, C., & Briere, J. (1991, January). <i>Early data on the Trauma Symptom Checklist for Children (TSC-C)</i> . Paper presented at the meeting of the American Professional Society of the Abuse of Children, San Diego, CA.

The following information must remain intact on every handout printed for distribution.

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