

APA Style
Jacobson Center for Writing, Teaching, and Learning
Smith College

When you write papers in the social sciences—psychology, sociology, anthropology, and political science, among others—you need to follow the reference guidelines of the American Psychological Association (APA).

APA style makes use of both an in-text citation, also known as a parenthetical note, and an entry for a final “References” page.

In-Text Citations

In her study of refugee life, Nguyen (1993) examined the difficulties faced by new immigrants suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

References Entry

Nguyen, T. (1993). *Regret and resilience: A South East Asian refugee community study*. San Francisco: Human Science Press.

Formatting Quotations

Short quotations of fewer than 40 words should be incorporated into the text and enclosed with double quotation marks. Always provide the author, year, and page number of the text and include a complete reference in the reference list.

Weinstein (1987) wrote that the twinship transference is “perhaps the most profound opportunity offered to a patient in group therapy” (p.150).

They argue, “It is the rare contemporary practitioner who posits that psychotherapy can be value-neutral” (Norcross and Wogan, 1987, pp. 5-6) but offer no viable proof.

Long quotations of 40 words or more should be set off in a free-standing block of typewritten lines and the quotation marks should be omitted. A block quotation should begin on a new line and indented five to seven spaces from the left margin. Subsequent

lines should be typed flush with the indent. The entire quotation should be doubled spaced.

Beck's (1995) thesis explored why students selected either an MSW degree or one in psychology:

The findings of the research show that, in general, both groups had considered other career paths and expressed a desire to help people. The social work students tended to be motivated by the desire to relate to clients, stemming from childhood experience. This group valued understanding clients in a broader social context. In contrast, psychology students tended to be motivated by a curiosity about human behavior, stemming from their high school or college experience. This group was more likely to value science, testing and research. (p.i)

The punctuation preceding a block quotation varies. If the sentence preceding the quotation is complete, a colon should be used. If the sentence is incomplete, punctuate as you would if the sentence and the quotation were straight uninterrupted text.

APA Guide

1. Book with One Author

In-Text Citation Form

(Kendall, 1982, p. 14)

Reference List Form

Kendall, G. (1998). *Family fictions*. Washington, DC: American Dynamics Publishing.

2. Two or More Books by the Same Author

In-Text Citation Form

(Sullivan, *Adolescent awakenings*, 1999, p. 77)

(Sullivan, *Issues in geriatrics*, 2002, p. 106)

Reference List Form (arrange by year of publication, earliest first)

Sullivan, G. (1999). *Adolescent awakenings*. Chicago: Lincoln Park Press.

Sullivan G. (2002). *Issues in geriatrics*. Chicago: Lincoln Park Press.

3. Book with Two to Five Authors

In-Text Citation Form

(Garrod, Smulyan, Powers, & Kilkenny, 1995, p. 18)

Note: For works with two authors, cite both authors' names every time you make an in-text citation note. For works with three to five authors, cite all authors for your first in-text citation; after that, cite only the name of the first author followed by et al.:

(Garrod et al., 1995, p. 24)

Reference List Form

Garrod, A., Smulyan, L., Powers, S. & Kilkenny, R. (1995). *Adolescent portraits: Identity, relationships and challenges*. Needham Heights, MA: Allyn & Bacon.

4. Book with Six or More Authors

In-Text Citation Form

(Dubay et al., 2001, p.7)

Reference List Form

Dubay, S., Szumowski, W., Kline, K., Kent, A., Del Toro, B., Pem, P. (2001).
Multilingual and multi-generational: Living in tongues. Los Angeles: New
Century Press.

5. *Book by a Corporate Author*

In-Text Citation Form

In the text, provide the complete name of the text and the association that published it when you first mention it. After that, you can refer to the name of the text.

Reference List Form

American Psychiatric Association. (2000). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders (5th ed.)*. Washington, DC: Author.

(This shows that the Association is both the author and the publisher.)

6. *Article or Chapter in an Edited Book*

In-Text Citation Form

(Salvatore, 1996, pp. 310 – 330)

Reference List Form

Salvatore, N. A. (1996). Increased visual acuity in deafened mice. In C. D. Smithson (Ed.), *Sensory perceptions in mammals* (pp. 310 – 330). New York: Science Center Publications.

7. *Article in a Scholarly Journal*

In-Text Citation Form

(Brannock & Chapman, 1990, pp. 7 – 13)

Reference List Form

Brannock, J. C. & Chapman, B. E. (1990). Negative sexual experiences with men among heterosexual women and lesbians. *Journal of Homosexuality*, 19, 105 – 110.

8. *Secondary Sources*

In-Text citation form

If you are quoting a source that is quoted in another source, in the text, phrase the citation in the following way:

Perma and Davis (as cited in Cancela, 1991) suggested that “when working with young women, therapists should focus on the ambiguities of defining modern femininity” (p. 201).

Reference List Form

Cancela, B. (1991). Gender constructions and complexities in a post-modern age. *Enigma*, 45, 201.

9. *Article in a Newspaper, Author Named*

In-Text Citation Form

(Agemondo, 2001)

Reference List Form

Agemondo, B. (2001, November 17). Coping skills on view in city school. *The Pittsfield Daily*, pp. A1, A3.

10. *Article in a Newspaper, No Author Named*

In-Text Citation Form

(“Coping Skills on View,” 2001)

Reference List Form

Coping skills on view in city school. (2001, November 17). *The Pittsfield Daily*, pp. A1, A3.

11. *Electronic Sources*

In-Text Citation Form

(Trout, 1999)

Reference List Form

Trout, A. (1999). The science of a smile. *Studies in Physiognomy*. Retrieved December 13, 2001, from <http://www.studiesinphysi/dec01/sciencesmile.html>