

# The Writing Center

## Formatting a References Page in APA Style

APA style provides a set of rules for citing the sources you use when researching and writing essays. This ensures that readers will be able to easily retrace where you found information and will help you to avoid plagiarism. This handout gives some basic guidelines for constructing a References page in APA style. Note that your References page should list every source you consulted in alphabetical order by the last name of the author. If you are uncertain about how to cite a particular source, consult your handbook, your instructor, or a writing center tutor.

\* For more information, see Purdue OWL's APA Formatting and Style Guide at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

### Citing Books

#### Basic format

Last name, First initial. (Year). *Title of book*. City of publication: Place of publication: Publisher.

#### A book with a single author

Díaz, J. (2007). *The brief wondrous life of oscar wao*. New York, NY: New Riverhead Books.

#### Two to seven authors

List up to seven authors by last name followed by initials. Use an ampersand (&) before the name of the last author.

Graff, G., Birkenstein, C., & Durst, R. (2012). *They say/I say: the moves that matter in academic writing: with readings*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York, NY: Norton.

If a book has more than seven authors, list the first six authors followed by three ellipsis dots and the last author's name.

#### An edited collection or anthology

Begin with the name of the editor or editors; place the abbreviation "Ed." (or "Eds." For more than one editor) in parentheses following the name.

Valentine, T. (Ed.). (2004). *Language and prejudice*. New York, NY: Pearson Longman.

### Citing Periodicals

#### Scholarly journal article

All Authors: Last name, Initial(s). (Year). Title of article. *Title of Journal*, vol. , no. , pages.

Fraistat, N. (1994). Illegitimate shelley: radical piracy and the textual edition as cultural performance. *PMLA*, 109, 409-23.

#### Magazine article

All Authors: last name, Initial(s). (Year, Month). Title of article. *Title of Magazine*. Volume(issue), pages.

Ruby, J. (2013, October). The delicious life of nick offerman. *Chicago*, 5(6), 66-69.

#### Newspaper article

All Authors: last name, Initial(s). (year +, month + day). Title of article. *Title of Newspaper*, pp. pages.

Hoover, E. (2013, July 5). Talk of student-aid reform prompts antitrust inquiry. *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, pp. L1.

## **Citing Electronic Sources**

### **An entire website**

Do not include an entire Web site in the reference list. Give the URL in parentheses when you mention it in the text of your paper. Note: In an APA paper or an APA reference list entry, the word “website” is spelled all lowercase, as one word.

### **Document from a Web site**

List as many of the following elements as are available: author’s name, publication date (or “n.d.” if there is no date), title (in italics), publisher (if any), and URL. If the publisher is known and is not named as the author, include the publisher in your retrieval statement.

Wagner, D.A., Murphy, K.M., & De Korne, H. (2012, December). *Learning first: A research agenda for improving learning in low-income countries*. Retrieved from Brookings Institution website:  
<http://www.brookings.edu/research/papers/2012/12/learning-first-wagner-murphy-de-korne>

### **Scholarly article from an online database**

Author’s last name and first initial. (Date). Title of article. *Title of Journal*, volume number (issue number), pages.  
Doi# (Digital object identifier) OR Retrived from URL

Cojanu, V. (2013). Economics, Darwinism, and the case of disciplinary imports. *American Journal of Economics and Sociology*, 72, 179-198. doi:10.1111/j.1536-750.2012.00867.x

### **Article from an online scholarly journal**

Brenton, S. (2011). When the personal becomes political: Mitigating damage following scandals. *Current Research in Social Pathology*. Retrieved from <http://www.uiowa.edu/grppoc/crisp.html>

## **Citing Interviews**

### **Interview conducted by you**

No personal communication is included in your reference list; instead, parenthetically cite the communicator's name, the phrase "personal communication," and the date of the communication in your main text only.

(J. Smith, personal communication, August 15, 2009)

### **Published Interview (print or broadcast)**

Begin with the person interviewed, and put the interviewer in brackets following the title (if any).

Githongo, J. (2012, November 20). A conversation with John Githongo [Interview by Babob]. *The Economist*. Retrieved from <http://www.economist.com/>