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APA Style Guide: References

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This article aims to help students understand the formatting complexities of an APA References page according to the guidelines in the APA Manual (7th ed.).

Introduction

Incorporating citations and evidence within your paper is necessary to properly argue your point and credibly construct your argument. Not only do proper references help you avoid plagiarism, but they can help your reader conduct their own research on similar projects by directing them to credible sources. The American Psychological Association Manual is used by the social sciences and many other disciplines to standardize in-text citations and the References page. With the many rules of source citation, writing the References page can seem rather daunting. But with time and practice, it can become automatic.

References List

Your bibliography should be listed on the final page(s) of your paper, which consists of a list of the citations of each source used in your paper. Your bibliography page should be double-spaced, with "References" bolded and centered at the top of your new page.

In APA format, use a hanging indent to cite sources. This means that the second and all subsequent lines of a single citation will use a 0.5" indent from the left side of the page. In the citation, the author's last name should appear first, followed by the first and middle initials of the author, with the last name and the initials being separated by a comma (Ex. Doe, J.R.). As with most reference pages, in APA, the citations will be alphabetized by last name. When citing more than one source by the same author, organize the citations from earliest written to most recent.

Examples

Within each reference, seven key components must be included: the author's name(s), publication date, title of the article, journal title, volume and issue, page numbers, and the DOI (when applicable). Note that the spacing, capitalization, and punctuation are very important.

APA *journal* citation:

Primary contributors (Publication date). Title. Container title Volume(Issue), Page number(s). DOI

Doe, J.R. (2024). History of CBU and its growth as a university. *Interesting Facts About CBU* 1(3), 324-326. https://doi.org/00000000000000000/000000000000

APA *book* citation:

Author. (Publication date). *Title*. (Edition), Publisher.

Doe, J.R. (2024). *History of CBU and its growth as a university*. 3rd ed., California Baptist University.

APA *website* citation:

Author. (Publication date). *Title*. Container title. URL

Office of Student Success. (2024, May 10). *UWC appointments page*. calbaptist.mywconline.com/schedule/calendar?scheduleid=sc64e791ef275a7&date=06-22-2024

These are just a few examples of the most common citations. Please consult the [7th APA Manual of Style](#) or [Purdue's OWL](#) for details of every kind of citation.

Conclusion

Though learning a new citation format is initially intimidating, attention to detail and a little practice will allow you to create a strong APA References page. To avoid plagiarism, it is important to include all the sources you used in your paper. While citing your sources, always include each of the necessary components within the citation so it is clear what kind of source you are referencing. With a little bit of practice, you'll be writing flawless citations in no time.

Tips

1. Format your references page the same as the rest of your paper: double-spaced and using the same font (legible serif or sans-serif fonts).
2. Identify which kind of source you're using. For journal articles (most common), include the seven key factors: the author's name(s), publication date, title of the article, journal title, volume and issue, page numbers, and the DOI.
3. Practice working with citations to become more adept at creating them on your own, or visit some trusted citation-generating websites to help. Always double-check the details.

Works Consulted

"How to Cite in APA Format (7th edition) Guide and Generator," *Scribbr,* https://www.scribbr.com/category/apa-style/#:~:text=An%20APA%20in%2Dtext%20citation,2020%2C%20p.%20170. Accessed 10 Aug 2024.

"Reference List: Basic Rules." *Purdue Online Writing* Lab, Purdue University, 2024, https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/reference_list_basic_rules.html.