Citationmachine.net

A Comprehensive Guide to APA Citations and Format

Overview of this Guide:

This page provides you with an overview of APA format. Included is information about referencing, various citation formats with examples for each source type, and other helpful information.

If you’re looking for [MLA format](http://www.citationmachine.net/mla), check out Citation Machine’s MLA Guide. Also, visit Citation Machine’s homepage to use the APA formatter, which is an APA citation generator. [See more across the site](http://www.citationmachine.net).

Being Responsible While Researching

When you’re writing a research paper or creating a research project, you will probably use another individual’s work to help develop your own assignment. A good researcher or scholar uses another individual’s work in a responsible way. This involves indicating that the work of other individuals is included in your project, which is one way to prevent plagiarism.

Plagiarism? What is it?

The word plagiarism is derived from the latin word, plagiare, which means “to kidnap.” The term has evolved over the years to now mean the act of taking another individual’s work and using it as your own, without acknowledging the original author. [Be careful of plagiarism](https://www.extension.harvard.edu/resources-policies/resources/tips-avoid-plagiarism)! Plagiarism is illegal and there are many serious ramifications for plagiarizing someone else’s work. Thankfully, plagiarism can be prevented. One way it can be prevented is by including citations in your research project. Want to make these citations quickly and easily? Try Citation Machine’s automatic citation generator, which is found on our homepage.

All about Citations

Citations should be included in research projects, or any added anytime you use another individual’s work in your own assignment. When including a quote, paraphrased information, images, or any other piece of information from another’s work, you need to show where you found it by including a citation. This guide explains how to make citations.

There are two types of APA citations. The first type of citation, which is called in-text, or parenthetical citations, are included when you’re adding information from another individual’s work into your own project. When you add text word-for-word from another source into your project or take information from another source and place it in your own words and writing style (known as paraphrasing), you must make an in-text citation. These citations are short in length and are placed in the main part of your project, directly after the borrowed information.

The other type of citations, which are called reference citations, are found at the end of your research project, usually on the last page. Included on this reference list page are the full citations for any in-text citations found in the body of the project. These citations are listed in alphabetical order, one after the other.

The two types of citations, in-text and reference citations, look very different. In-text citations include three items: the last name(s) of the author, the year the source was published, and the page or location of the information. Reference citations include more information such as the name of the author(s), the year the source was published, the title of the source, and the URL or page range.

Why is it Important to Include Citations?

Including citations in your research projects is a very important component of the research process. When you include citations, you’re being a responsible researcher. You’re showing readers that you were able to find valuable, high-quality information from other sources, place them into your project where appropriate, all while acknowledging the original authors and their work.

Citation Examples for Sources

Books:

Print Books with One Author:

**Structure:**

Author Last name, First initial. Middle initial. (Year Published). *Title of work*. Location: Publisher.

**Example:**

Dickens, C. (1942). *Great expectations*. New York, NY: Dodd, Mead.

Print Books with Two or More Authors:

**Structure:**

Last name, First initial. Middle initial., Last name, First initial. Middle initial., & Last name, First initial. Middle initial. (Date). *Title*. Location: Publisher.

**Examples:**

Goldin, C. D., & Katz, L. F. (2008). *The race between education and technology*. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press.

Matthews, G., Smith, Y., & Knowles, G. (2009). *Disaster management in archives, libraries and museums*. Farnham, England: Ashgate.

Chapters in Books:

When citing a chapter in an edited book, use the following format:

**Structure for Chapters in Edited Books in Print:**

Last name of chapter author, First initial. Middle initial. (Year published). Chapter title. In First initial. Middle initial. Last name of Editor (Ed.), *Book Title* (pp. xx-xx). Publishing City, State: Publisher.

**Example for Chapters in Edited Books in Print:**

De Abreu, B.S. (2001). The role of media literacy education within social networking and the library. In D. E. Agosto & J. Abbas (Eds.), *Teens, libraries, and social networking* (pp. 39-48). Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO.

**Structure for Chapters in Edited Books, found Online:**

Last name of chapter author, First initial. Middle initial. (Year published). Chapter title. In First initial. Last name of Editor (Ed.), *Book title* [E-reader version, if used] (pp. xx-xx). doi:10.xxxx/xxxxxx or Retrieved from http://xxxx

**Example for Chapters in Edited Books, found Online:**

Lobo, R. F. (2003). Introduction to the structural chemistry of zeolites. In S. Auerbach, K. Carrado, & P. Dutta (Eds.), *Handbook of zeolite science and technology* (pp. 65-89). Retrieved from https://books.google.com

If you’re still unsure about how to cite a chapter in a book, use Citation Machine’s free citation generator to help you. Your citations will automatically format properly for you.

E-Books Found on a Website:

**Structure:**

Author Last Name, First initial. Middle initial. (Year Published). *Title of work* [E-reader version]. http://dx.doi.org/xxxx or Retrieved from http://xxxx

**Example:**

Auster, P. (2007). *The Brooklyn follies* [Nook version]. Retrieved from http://www.barnesandnoble.com/

E-Books found on a Database:

Reminder:

* Only the first letter of the first word and any proper nouns in the title should be capitalized.
* A DOI (digital object identifier) is basically a number that links a source to its location on the Internet. This number isn’t always provided, but if it is, it’s very important to include it in your citation.

**Structure:**

Author Last Name, First initial. Middle initial. (Year Published). *Title of work*. http://dx.doi.org/xxxx or Retrieved from http://xxxx

**Example:**

Baloh, P., & Burke, M. E. (2007). *Attaining organizational innovations*. http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/978-0-387-72804-9\_30

To cite your e-books automatically, use the “Book” form on Citation Machine, click “Manual entry mode,” and click the “E-book” tab. Citation Machine formats your citation properly following APA bibliography guidelines.

Journal articles in Print:

**Structure:**

Author Last name, First initial. Middle initial. (Year Published). Title of article. *Title of Periodical, Volume*(Issue), page range.

**Example:**

Gleditsch, N. P., Pinker, S., Thayer, B. A., Levy, J. S., & Thompson, W. R. (2013). The forum: The decline of war. *International Studies Review, 15*(3), 396-419.

Journal Articles Online:

* If your source is found online, but there is no DOI provided, you can include the URL instead.
* A **DOI** (digital object identifier) is basically a number that links a source to its location on the Internet. This number isn’t always provided, but if it is, you should include it in your citation rather than including a URL.
* Unlike previous editions, the 6th edition does not require including a retrieval date or date accessed for online sources. A retrieval date is only necessary if the source is likely to change (ex. Wikipedia).

**Structure:**

Author Last name, First initial. Middle initial. (Year Published). Title of article. *Title of Periodical, Volume*(Issue), page range. http://dx.doi.org/xxxx

**Example:**

Sahin, N. T., Pinker, S., Cash, S. S., Schomer, D., & Halgren, E. (2009). Sequential processing of lexical, grammatical, and phonological information within Broca’s area. *Science, 326*(5951), 445-449. http://dx.doi.org/10.1126/sicence.1174481

If you need additional help citing your journal articles, our APA reference generator will cite your sources automatically for you.

Newspaper Articles in Print:

**Structure:**

Author's Last name, First initial. Middle initial. (Year, Month Day Published). Title of article. *Title of Newspaper,* page range.

**Example:**

Frost, L. (2006, September 14). First passengers ride monster jet. *The Salt Lake Tribune,* p. A2.

Page numbers: If the article is only one page long, use ‘p.’ For any articles longer than one page, use ‘pp.’

* If an article appears on non-sequential pages, separate each page number with a comma.
* Example: pp. D4, D5, D7-D8

Newspaper Articles found Online:

**Structure:**

Author Last name, First initial. Middle initial. (Year, Month Date Published). Title of article. *Title of Newspaper*. Retrieved from newspaper homepage URL

**Example:**

Whiteside, K. (2004, August 31). College athletes want cut of action. *USA Today*. Retrieved http://www.usatoday.com

Magazine Articles in Print:

**Structure:**

Author Last Name, First initial. Middle initial. (Year, Month Published). Title of article. *Title of Magazine, Volume*(Issue), page range.

**Example:**

Quammen, D. (2008, December). The man who wasn’t Darwin. *National Geographic Magazine*, 214(6), 106.

Websites:

**Structure:**

Author Last Name, First initial. (Year, Month Date Published). Title of webpage. Retrieved from URL

**Example of an APA format website:**

Austerlitz, S. (2015, March 3). How long can a spinoff like ‘Better Call Saul’ last? Retrieved from http://fivethirtyeight.com/features/how-long-can-a-spinoff-like-better-call-saul-last/

Blogs:

**Structure:**

Last name, First initial. Middle initial. (Year, Month, Date of blog post). Title of blog post [Blog post]. Retrieved from URL

**Example:**

McClintock Miller, S. (2014, January 28). EasyBib joins the Rainbow Loom project as we dive into research with the third graders [Blog post]. Retrieved from http://vanmeterlibraryvoice.blogspot.com

On Citation Machine’s form for blogs, you have the option to choose from standard, audio, and video blogs. Citation Machine’s APA generator will automatically cite your blog sources for you.

TV and Radio Broadcasts

**Structure:**

Writer Last Name, First initial. Middle initial. (Writer), & Director Last Name, First initial. (Director). (Year aired). Title of episode [Television or Radio series episode]. In First initial. Producer’s Last name (Executive producer), *TV or Radio series name*. City, State of original channel: Channel.

**Example:**

Lin, K. (Writer), & Coles, J. D. (Director). (2014). Chapter 18 [Television series episode]. In Bays, C. (Executive producer), *House of cards*. Washington, D.C.: Netflix.

If using Citation Machine’s citation generator, television and radio broadcasts use the same form.

Films

**Structure:**

Producer Last Name, First initial. Middle initial. (Producer), & Director Last Name, First initial. Middle initial. (Director). (Year Released). *Title of film* [Motion picture]. Country of origin: Studio.

**Example:**

Kurtz, G. (Producer), & Kershner, I. (Director). (1980). *The emperor strikes back*[Motion picture]. United States: 20th Century Fox.

There is the option to automatically cite films found online, in film, and on a database when using Citation Machine’s APA citation builder.

Interviews

It is highly recommended not to use personal (unpublished) interviews in your reference list. Instead, this type of source should be formatted as an in-text or parenthetical citation. Here is an example of an in-text citation for a personal interview:

**Structure:** (Interviewee First initial., Last Name, personal communication, Date Interviewed)

**Example:** (D. Halsey, personal communication, December 12, 2011)

Published Interviews should be cited accordingly if they appear as journal articles, newspaper articles, television programs, radio programs, or films.

If your instructor requires a citation in the reference list, use the following structure:

**Structure:**

Last Name, First initial. Middle initial. of Individual being interviewed (Year, Month Day Interviewed). Interview by F. I. Last name [Format of interview].

**Example:**

Halsey, D. (2011, December 12). Interview by S. L. Ferguson [In-person].

If you are planning on using Citation Machine, a note is displayed above the form stating that personal interviews are not typically cited in text.

Songs & Musical Recordings found Online

*\*Note: If the name of the songwriter is the same as the name of the recording artist, leave out the bracketed information located after the name of the song.*

**Structure:**

Last name, First initial. Middle initial. of Songwriter. (Year created). Song title [Recorded by First initial. Middle initial. Last name of the performer’s name or the name of the band]. On *Album Title* [Medium]. Retrieved from URL

**Example:**

Hedfors, A., Ingrosso, S., & Angello, S. (2012). Greyhound [Recorded by Swedish House Mafia]. On *Until Now* [Audio file]. Retrieved from https://open.spotify.com/track/0VffaI2jwQknRrxpECYHsF

If using Citation Machine, choose the form titled, “Music/Audio,” to automatically cite your songs and musical recordings. Our APA citation maker is free and easy to use.

Audio Podcasts:

**Structure:**

Last name, First initial. Middle initial. (Producer). (Year, Month Day). *Title of podcast*[Audio podcast]. Retrieved from URL

**Example:**

Goodwin, G. (Producer). (2016, February 11). *History extra* [Audio podcast]. Retrieved from http://www.historyextra.com/podcasts

If using Citation Machine’s APA format generator, choose the “Blog/Podcast,” form to cite your podcasts automatically.

YouTube Videos:

**Structure:**

Last name, First initial. Middle initial. [YouTube username]. (Year, Month Day of posting). *Title of YouTube video* [Video file]. Retrieved from URL

**Example:**

Damien, M. [Marcelo Damien]. (2014, April 10). *Tiesto @ Ultra Buenos Aires 2014 (full set)* [Video file]. Retrieved from https://youtu.be/mr4TDnR0ScM

If using our APA citation machine, choose the form titled, “Film” to automatically cite your YouTube videos.

Looking for a source type that is not on this guide? Here is another [useful link to follow](http://www.swinburne.edu.au/library/referencing/apa-style-guide/).