

APA REFERENCES CITATION IN THE TEXT

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APA formatting requires that you cite (write) the author and date of the reference you are using within the actual text. This system differs somewhat from what many students have used in the past wherein they used formatting standards which used a numerical footnoting system. APA differs from these systems. Many students question what they should cite in the first place. The following guidelines should help

1. You do not need to cite general knowledge or information which most people would be expected to know.

Concept: You would not need to cite a statement which describes estrogen and progesterone as the main hormonal output from the ovaries. It is a well known fact established many decades ago and not subject to any debate at this time.

Example: Estrogen and progesterone are released cyclically throughout the reproductive years in women.....etc.

2. You do need to cite statements which are founded in research or else are in any way novel, controversial or which involve direct quotations.

Concept: You would cite a statement which holds that estrogen increases the endothelial compliance of the vascular system. You would cite this statement by listing the researcher's name and date of the study in parenthesis. The specific information included in the parenthesis will vary depending on what is in the text. Consider the following examples (all of these examples are fictitious)

Example 1: Doppler ultrasonography has revealed that estrogen increases the vascular endothelial compliance in postmenopausal women taking 0.625 mg of conjugated equine estrogen (McLaughlin, 1992)

Example 2: McLaughlin (1992) established that conjugated equine estrogen increased vascular endothelial compliance in postmenopausal women evaluated with Doppler ultrasonography.

Example 3: In 1992, McLaughlin definitively established that estrogen increased vascular endothelial compliance via studies involving Doppler ultrasonography.

Example 4: McLaughlin (1992, p. 5) stated "estrogen is a vascular endothelial cell's best friend."

Example 5: "The hazards of estrogen therapy in the postmenopausal woman have been blatantly ignored in the interest of increasing corporate profits (Richardson, 2002, p.5)

Example 6: "Our studies have demonstrated that Wonderpill, our new drug, is the greatest thing since both sliced bread and pimento loaf; moreover it cures all disease know to man" (Truthman, 2001, conclusion section, ¶ 2)

Key Points:

Example 1: the text mentions neither the researchers nor the date of the study.
Both author and year are listed in the citation (material in parenthesis).

Example 2: the text mentions the researcher but not the year of the study
Only the year is listed in the citation.

Example 3, both the researcher and the date of the study is mentioned in the text.

No citation appears. This reference list, however, would still include this reference.

Example 4 involves a direct quote where the person making the quote is mentioned in the text

The year and the page is mentioned in the citation. Note that pages are used only in direct quotations.

Example 5: involves a direct quotation but the text provides no information.

The citation lists the person who made the statement, the year and the page. When pages are not available (such as with online material or brochures) you may substitute paragraphs using the paragraph sign ¶.

Example 6: illustrates the use of the paragraph sign ¶.

In this (fictitious) example, Dr. Truthman has made these statements online (probably because no publisher would print them.) Most wordprocessors have a symbol section wherein you can find the paragraph sign. If there are different sections in the online article or printed brochure, you may mention them e.g. Example 6 mentions the conclusion section. If such is not possible, simply list the paragraph.

3. The citation (information within the parentheses) includes brief information as noted in the examples above. Examples of how to create citations are illustrated below. A full reference for each citation would appear in the reference list at the conclusion of the article.

An exception to this rule would occur if you cite the exact author and study in more than one part of your text. For example, if you mention a particular research done on page 3 of your text and then, again, on page 7. In such case, you would have one entry in the reference list which covers both of them. Otherwise each of your citations should have a corresponding entry in the reference list. In the unusual case where the text mentions both the researcher and the year, there would be no citation in the text. The reference list, however, would still include an entry for this item.

Professional writers and researchers put a create deal of care and effort into choosing references and creating a reference list. Many people judge an article by the reference list which they read first in order to determine the quality of the article, and, in turn, whether they even wish to read it. Similarly, students should pay particular attention to this aspect of their assignments. Professors are notorious for grading a student's paper with considerable weight based on the choice and quality of the references cited.

Please consult the handout called *APA References* for examples of how to create these reference notations which comprise the reference list. Start the reference list on a new page. Type the word *References* in lower case, except for the R, which is capitalized and center it at the top of the page.

REFERENCE CITATIONS IN TEXT

One work by one author

Recent research (Thompson, 1999) has suggested that Shakespearean plays may have been ghost written by talking parrots. Martinson (2001) has refuted previously held beliefs that birds are actually illiterate and cannot critically think but rather merely repeat what they hear. In 2002, Rapheal established that the recent best seller *Existentialism in Modern Man* was actually dictated by a parakeet whose owner recorded the sessions then typed it out on behalf of the bird. Opponents have been vocal. "This is ridiculous; everyone knows birds can't critically think! (Smithson, 2002, p. 3). Dr. Smithson has published his theory that best seller in question was actually written by a giraffe currently residing in the Bronx Zoo. In an interview with the zoo keeper assigned to the giraffes etc.

Key points:

1. Within a paragraph you need not include the year in subsequent references to a particular study as long as it cannot be confused with other studies cited in the same article. In the above example, the second reference within the same paragraph to Dr. Smithson's work does not include the date.
2. Use quotation marks for direct quotes and include the page number in the citation. The first citation referencing Dr. Smithson illustrates this point.
3. Cite the researcher and the year when the text does not mention either. The example citing Thompson, 1999 illustrates this point. Use only the year where the text mentions the researcher as is the case with Martinson.

One work with two authors: Cite both names every time the work is mentioned.

Contrary to popular believes, toads do not cause warts (Michealson & Verlen, 1998). Warts are actually caused by writing too many papers for nursing courses

Works with three, four or five authors:

Cite all authors the first time the reference occurs; subsequent citations include only the surname of the first author followed by et al. (not italicized with a period after “al”)

Warts are actually caused by writing too many papers for nursing courses (Richardson, Martone & Rockette, 1994). The bumps noted to the skin of toads are not actually warts; they are the natural configuration of the skin. These animals have been maligned for decades report toad advocacy groups. Richardson et al. have formed support groups for toads whose self-esteem have been significantly lowered by the common misperceptions concerning their role as etiologic agents for skin lesions. Archibald and Neil (1982) have advocated for these animals since the early 1980s. These authors were the first to raise the issue of the writing assignments.

Note that the word “and” is used to join multiple authors in the text whereas the ampersand (&) is used to join multiple authors in the citation

Works with six or more authors:

Cite only the surname of the first author followed by et al. (not italicized and with a period after “al”) and the year for the first and subsequent citations. In the rare instances where six or more authors shorten to the same form, cite the surnames of the first authors and as many of the subsequent authors as necessary to distinguish references. In each case, follow the names by a comma and et al.

As a result of advocacy groups, the public has gradually come to view these here-to-for maligned animals in a new light. As for the toads, the damage to their self-esteem has been somewhat more difficult to repair even in light of the newly formed support groups which have appeared in many communities (Ryan, et al.). Martinson, Bergsen, Stoney et al. (1999) have raised the issue of whether similar support groups should be formed for the nursing students who have developed the controversial warts secondary to writing too many papers in their courses. Some authorities have questioned whether efforts would be better directed toward teaching students how to write papers which are compliant with APA formatting guidelines. It seems that the warts only develop when the nursing students write and submit papers which do not conform to APA style manual (Martinson, Bergsen, Riley et al., 2000).

Groups as authors (Corporations, associations, government agencies, study groups, etc.)

Name of the group is spelled out each time they appear in a text citation. Some group names may be spelled out in the first citation and abbreviated thereafter e.g. National Institute of Health which subsequently abbreviates to NIH. Do not abbreviate names unless the abbreviation is readily recognized.

The government has taken an interest in the plight of the toads. Researchers have specifically identified parameters which have defined the low self-esteem which has developed secondary to the misperception about the warts (National Institute of Mental Health [NIMH], 2001). The NIMH has declared them “an emotionally endangered species” (p.3). Considerably less public support has surrounded the plight of the nursing students.

Works with no author (including legal materials) or with an anonymous author

Cite in text the first few words of the reference list entry (usually the title) and the year. Use double quotation marks around the title of an article or chapter; italicize the title of periodicals, books, brochures or reports. If an author is anonymous, cite the word Anonymous, followed by a comma and the date.

The poem “Warts No More” (Anonymous, 1999) was written by a Fairleigh Dickinson Nursing student who poignantly describes the heartbreak of warts during her junior year at the University. Alerted to this plight, brochures were circulated to assist students to write papers which conform to the APA publication manual (*Guidelines for writing*, 2000). In a chapter of a report submitted to an accrediting body for nursing schools, the school describes the fact that a certain percentage of students never actually purchase the required APA manual listed as a required text on virtually every syllabus (“Textbook Purchasing Practices”, 2001). Amazingly, these students, it seems, were the ones to developed the warts and moreover got poorer grades on their papers in comparison to the students who actually purchased the book.

Authors with the same surname

Include the first author's initials in all text citations, even if the year of publication differs

R.J. Wart and Feinstein (1995) and T.L. Wart and Nealy (1999) have studiedetc.

Personal Communication (letters, conversations, memos, email, electronic bulletin boards)

1. Cite personal communications in the text only
2. Do not include in reference list because they do not contain recoverable data
3. Give initials and surname; provide as exact a date as possible
4. That which is cited should have scholarly relevance - many electronic forums are casual

M.T. Martinson (personal communication, March 25, 1952)

R.J. Atkinson (Lecture, May 18, 1994)

T.J. Blumberg (email, April 1, 1995)

E.J. Ryan (memo, Sept 1, 1990)

M.K. Moran (letter, Oct 30, 1977)