What is APA Style?
APA Style is the reference format used by the American Psychological Association. It is widely accepted in the social sciences, as well as in other fields like business, education, and nursing. This guide shows formats and examples for the most commonly used resources.

✓ For full details on citing sources, see the Publication manual of the American Psychological Association: the official guide to APA style., 2020. – REF 808.06615 Am3574

General Rules of APA Style
✓ Paper Formatting
  o Font: Use the same font throughout your paper. Options include:
    ▪ A sans serif font, such as 11-point Calibri, 11-point Arial, or 10-point Lucida
    ▪ A serif font such as 12-point Times New Roman or 11-point Georgia.
  o Spacing: Your entire paper and works cited page (bibliography) should be double spaced.
  o Margins: 1” margins for top, bottom, right, and left.
  o Your entire paper should be aligned to the left. New paragraphs get a 0.5” indent for the first line. Reference list page (bibliography) should have a hanging indent of 0.5”.
✓ There are instances where you will cite something within your paper but will not list it in your reference list (such as personal communications).
✓ General mentions of whole websites or periodicals and common software and apps do not require a citation or reference list entry.
✓ Authors on your Reference list should be listed alphabetically.

Citation Style
APA uses the author-date citation system to cite references in the text. This means you will be providing the surname of the author and the date of publication, and they should match the surname and date used in your reference list. In-text citations have two formats: parenthetical and narrative.

✓ Parenthetical Citations: Author name and publication date appear in parenthesis.
✓ Narrative Citations: Author name and publication date are incorporated into the text as part of a sentence.

Principles of Reference List Entries
Author: Who is responsible for the work?
Date: When was this work published?
Title: What is this work called?
Source: Where can I retrieve this work?
Citations by Item Type – Periodicals

Journal Article with a Doi

Parenthetical citation: (McCauley & Christiansen, 2019)
Narrative citation: McCauley and Christiansen (2019)

Journal, magazine, or newspaper article without a DOI

Parenthetical citation: (Ahmann, 2018)
Narrative citation: Ahmann (2018)

Note: You do not need to include a URL or database name if you retrieve the journal, magazine, or newspaper article from an academic database.

Blog Post

Parenthetical citation: (Klymkowsky, 2018)
Narrative citation: Klymkowsky (2018)

Editorial

Parenthetical citation: (Cuellar, 2016)
Narrative citation: Cuellar (2016)

Citations by Item Type – Books & Reference Works

Book

Parenthetical citation: (Burgess, 2019)
Narrative citation: Burgess (2019)

All information is taken/adapted from the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 7th ed.
Note: If the book has a DOI, simply include it after the publisher.

**Book with Editor**

Note: If the book has more than one publisher, separate the names by using semicolons. If the book has a DOI, simply include the DOI after the publisher.

**Ebook (without a DOI and from a source outside of a database)**

**Parenthetical citation:** (Christian & Griffiths, 2016)
**Narrative citation:** Christian & Griffiths (2016)

**Audiobook**

**Parenthetical citation:** (Cain, 2012)
**Narrative citation:** Cain (2012)

**Chapter in a Book**

**Parenthetical citation:** (Bank & Packer, 2007)
**Narrative citation:** Bank & Packer (2007)

**Entry in a dictionary, thesaurus, or encyclopedia, with group author**

**Parenthetical citation:** (American Psychological Association, n.d.)
**Narrative citation:** American Psychological Association (n.d.)

Note: When an online reference work is continuously updated and the versions are not archived, use “n.d.” as the year of publication and include a retrieval date.

**Wikipedia Entry**

All information is taken/adapted from the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 7th ed.*
Parenthetical citation: (“List of Oldest Companies,” 2019)
Narrative citation: “List of Oldest Companies” (2019)

Note: Cite the archives version of the page so that readers can retrieve the version you used. Access the archived version on Wikipedia by selecting “View history” and then the time and date of the version you used. If a wiki does not provide permanent links to archived versions, include the URL for the entry AND the retrieval date.

Citations by Item Type – Dissertations & Theses, Conference Sessions, & Presentations

Dissertation or thesis from a database

Parenthetical citation: (Hollander, 2017)
Narrative citation: Hollander (2017)

Dissertation or thesis published online (not in a database)
Https://digitalarchive.wm.edu/bitstream/handle/10288/16594/HutchesonVirginia2012.pdf

Parenthetical citation: (Hutcheson, 2017)
Narrative citation: Hutcheson (2017)

Conference Session
https://asa.confex.com/asa/2017/webprogramarchives/Session9517.html

Parenthetical citation: (Fistek et al., 2017)
Narrative citation: Fistek et al. (2017)

Paper presentation
presentation]/ Southeastern Psychological Association 62nd Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, United States.

Parenthetical citation: (Maddox et al., 2016)
Narrative citation: Maddox et al. (2016)

Citations by Item Type – Audiovisual Works

Film or Video
Forman, M. (Director). (1975). One flew over the cuckoo’s nest [Film]. United Artists.

Parenthetical Citation: (Forman, 1975)
Narrative Citation: Forman (1975)

TV Series

Parenthetical citation: (Simon et al., 2002-2008)
Narrative citation: Simon et al. (2002-2008)

TED Talk

Parenthetical citation: (Giertz, 2018)
Narrative citation: Giertz (2018)

YouTube Video

Parenthetical citations: (Fogarty, 2016)
Narrative citations: Fogarty (2016)

A Quick Note & Additional Resources
This is by no means an exhaustive guide to APA. There are many more nuances and different situations explained within the text of the style guide itself, which is available in the Reference section of Mahoney Library. Please refer to it for more complicated questions or examples regarding citations and formatting.
Some additional resources are:

**APA Style website**
Official website of the APA style. Has instructional aids, handouts with quick-reference guides, and a blog with updated news and information.

**Purdue University's Online Writing Lab (OWL)**
Extensive Reference resource that is regularly updated and checked. This has more extensive information regarding formatting for paper, citations, and references.