Using APA Style

See the library guide: http://bit.ly/AuggieAPA
Save citations and generate works cited pages using RefWorks: bit.ly/AuggieRefWorks

The American Psychological Association (APA) style can refer to: how a paper looks (APA formatting) OR how to cite sources (APA citations).

  - If your instructor asks you to “use APA,” be sure to ask if they mean APA formatting and citations, or just APA citations.

- In-Text Citations throughout the Paper:
  - Sentences that refer to information found in a source need to have an in-text citation. There are two ways to write them:
    - Cite the source with parentheses at the end of the sentence this way: (author’s last name(s), year published)
    - OR
    - Incorporate the author’s last name(s) as part of your sentence followed by the year of publication in parentheses.

- References Page at the end of the paper:
  - Create a separate page at the end of your paper with “References” centered at the top.
  - Below “References,” list citations in alphabetical order with a “hanging indent.”
    - Creating hanging indents in Google Docs: highlight the citation(s), then click on Format -> Align & Indent -> Indentation Options… -> then change “Special” to “Hanging.”
    - Creating hanging indents in Microsoft Word: highlight the citation(s), then click on Format -> Paragraph… -> Under “Indent,” change “Special:None” to “Special:Hanging.”

An example paper with both types of in-text citations and a References Page is available at the end of this document

* Many articles published since 2000 have a Digital Object Identifier (DOI). Each DOI is a unique code of letters and numbers that functions like a barcode or QR code for articles. Unless otherwise noted by your instructor, if you do not see a DOI, then you do not need to include it.
Don’t know the date?

- Academic books and scholarly articles always have a date of publication near the beginning of the document.
- If you are looking at a PDF of something other than a scholarly article, and the date is not listed, you can hold “ctrl” and “D” at the same time (“command” and “D” on a Mac) to see when the PDF was created.
- If you cannot find the date at all, write “n.d.” instead of the year of publication.

Example:
  ○ Spotlight Resources. (n.d.). Retrieved from https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/about_the_owl/ow的信息/spotlight_resources.html

Don’t know the author?

- If you are using a publication by a government agency, list the name of the government agency when an author is not apparent. Example:
- If it is not by a government agency, and you don’t know the author, then ask yourself if the information is truly reliable and high-quality.
  ○ Have doubts? Check with your instructor, the writing lab, or a librarian.

Can’t find the source type you need? Want additional help?

- You can:
  ○ Ask for a librarian at the Library’s Front Desk, or use the chat box on the library’s main page at https://library.augsburg.edu
  ○ Visit the Writing Lab, located in the first floor of the library in front of the entrance elevators. https://inside.augsburg.edu/writinglab/
  ○ See the Publication Manual for the American Psychological Association (6th Edition):
    ■ The book is located in the library’s first floor reference section (with orange signs): look for the call number BF76.7 P83 2010
    ■ An APA Manual for electronic resources is also available through this link: https://bit.ly/2WGLDDq.

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Journal Article, one author, with DOI*

Last Name, First Initial. Middle Initial. (year of publication). Title of the article: Usually followed by a longer subtitle. Journal Name, volume number(issue number), first page number-last page number. doi:##.####/####-####.##.#.##


Journal Article, two authors, with DOI*

Last Name, First Initial. Middle Initial. [of author 1], & Last Name, First Initial. Middle Initial. [of author 2] (year of publication). Title of the article: Usually followed by a longer subtitle. Journal Name, volume number(issue number), first page number-last page number. doi:##.####/####-####.##.#.##


Journal Article, three - seven authors, with DOI*

Last Name, First Initial. Middle Initial. [of author 1], Last Name, First Initial. Middle Initial. [of authors 2, 3, 4, 6, and/or 6], & Last Name, First Initial(s) [of final author] (year of publication). Title of the article: Usually followed by a longer subtitle. Journal Name, volume number(issue number), first page number-last page number. doi:##.####/####-####.##.#.##


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**Book, single author**

Last Name, First Initial. Middle Initial. (year of publication). Title of the book: Usually followed by a longer subtitle. Location of Publisher: Publisher Name.


**Website, With Author and Date**


**Website, With Author, No Date**


Smith, J. M. Spotlight Resources. (n.d.). Purdue OWL. Retrieved from https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/about_the_owl/owl_information/spotlight_resources.html

**Website, No Author, With Date**


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**Online News or Magazine Article**

Last Name, First Initial. Middle Initial. (Year, Month Day). Title of article. *Title of Newspaper, Network, or Magazine*. Retrieved from https://www.someaddress.com/full/url/


**Blog (Weblog) Post**

Last Name, First Initial. Middle Initial., or screen.name. (Year, Month Day of post). Title of the blog post. [web log comment]. Retrieved from https://www.someaddress.com/full/url


**YouTube Video or Other Online Video**


Great Big Story. (2017, September 25). The world’s most magnificent libraries [Video file]. Retrieved from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PeLoyrDqL_A

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Example of APA Citations in a Paper: Often Followed by a Subtitle

This is an example of a paper written using APA in-text citations and a References Page. The formatting of the paper will depend on the requirements of the instructor. Students should read the instructions of a paper carefully and, when in doubt, they should ask the instructor for clarification. This paper uses the standard Times New Roman Font with size 12 type, but the text color is light grey to highlight the in-text citations. A regular paper will have black text only.

In this next paragraph, the first sentence will include an in-text citation that refers to an article written by one author (Pettigrew, 2009). We will assume that the second sentence, and the third one, will both refer to the same source, so we will not include the in-text citation in this sentence. Instead, it will go after this sentence, and the reader will know that the previous sentence and this one will be covered by the in-text citation at the end of this sentence, which is by two authors of an article (Wegener & Petty, 1994). If there are three-to-five authors of a source, the in-text citation looks like (Kernis, Cornell, Sun, Berry, & Harlow, 1993). Papers can also incorporate citation information into a sentence. For example, Holmquist (1981) can be

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mentioned as the author of a book entitled *They Chose Minnesota*, and this counts as an in-text citation.

If we have already referred to a source that has three, four, or five authors earlier in the paper, and we want to refer to that source again, we do not have to list every author again *(Kernis et al., 1993)*. Instead, we write *et al.* and that is a Latin abbreviation for “and others.” If we cite a source with six or more authors, we do not bother with writing all of their names in an in-text citation; instead we just write the first author’s last name and follow that with *et al.* *(Miller et al., 2009)*. We will keep doing that throughout the paper. If we do not know the name of the author, but the source has been written by a government agency or an organization, then we would write the name of the agency or organization as though it were a last name *(U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2005)*.

This last paragraph focuses on electronic sources. If an author(s) of an electronic source included their name on the source, then the in-text citation is the same as it would be for articles or books *(Dean, 2008)*. If the author(s) of an electronic source is not apparent, and/or if the date is not known, then the in-text citation would refer to the title of the webpage and “n.d.,” which is an abbreviation for “no date” *(Spotlight Resources, n.d.)*. Last, if the electronic source’s author uses a handle or username, then that handle or username goes in place of a last name *(Great Big Story, 2017)*.

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References


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