

APA Fast Guide

In-Text Citations & Reference List Entries

Options for In-Text Citations (Plus Special Situations)

Option 1: Author in Narrative Followed by Publication Date in Parentheses

This option is often used for direct quotes, for which a parenthetical page number is also included after the quoted material.

Critser (2019) noted that many health care providers still “remain either in ignorance or outright denial about the health danger to the poor and the young” (p. 5).

Option 2: Author and Publication Date in Parentheses After Borrowed Material

This option is often used for a paraphrase or summary, for which a page number is not required.

Sibutramine suppresses appetite by blocking the reuptake of the neurotransmitters serotonin and norepinephrine in the brain (**Yanovski, 2018**).

No Author

Use the title of the work in the narrative or a shortened version of the work’s title in parentheses.

Children struggling to control their weight must also struggle with the pressures of television advertising (“**Television**,” 2014).

No Date

Put the abbreviation “n.d.” where the date would be.

Attempts to establish a definitive link between television programming and children’s eating habits have been problematic (**Magnus, n.d.**).

No Page Number

When quoting a source with no page numbers, give a paragraph number with the abbreviation “para.” (even if they’re not numbered). If the work has section headings, then use the section heading along with the paragraph number.

Hoppin and Taveras (2010) pointed out that several other medications were classified by the Drug Enforcement Administration as having the “potential for abuse” (**Weight-Loss Drugs section, para. 6**).

Two Authors

Every time you cite the work, name both authors. Join their names with “and” in a narrative citation and “&” in a parenthetical citation.

According to **Sothorn and Gordon** (2009), “Environmental factors may contribute as much as 80% to the causes of childhood obesity” (p. 104).

Three or More Authors

Use the first author’s name followed by “et al.”

McDuffie et al. (2019) found orlistat to be most effective in the study.

Group Author

For the first citation, give the full name of the group followed by a familiar acronym (if available). After that, only use the acronym when referencing the group author.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC, 2019), there isn't enough evidence to conclude that eating sugar causes ADHD.

There isn't enough evidence to conclude that eating sugar causes ADHD (Center for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2019).

General Item Order for APA References (Plus Specific Examples)

Make sure the in-text citation matches a corresponding entry on the references page, where you give the full publication information for each reference. APA references follow this pattern:

Author. Date. Title. Source.

If a work has no attributed author, then simply start with the title followed by the date and source. Use years for books and journal articles and more detailed dates for publications like magazines and newspapers. The source is generally the publisher and DOI or URL for longer works. For articles, the source is the publication title, volume, issue, page range, and DOI or URL.

Book With a DOI

Brown, L. S. (2018). *Feminist therapy* (2nd ed.). American Psychological Association. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0000092-000>

Article With a DOI

Bergeson, S. (2019, January 4). Really cool neutral plasmas. *Science*, 363(6422), 33–34. <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aau7988>

Book or Article Without a DOI

For a book or article from most databases, omit the database name and URL. For a book or article with a non-database URL, provide the URL. Print versions don't require a DOI or URL.

Anderson, M. (2018). Getting consistent with consequences. *Educational Leadership*, 76(1), 26–33.

Christian, B., & Griffiths, T. (2016). *Algorithms to live by: The computer science of human decisions*. Henry Holt and Co. <https://a.co/7qGBZAK>

Webpage on a Website

Martin Lillie, C. M. (2016, December 26). *Be kind to yourself: How self-compassion can improve your resiliency*. Mayo Clinic. <https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/adult-health/in-depth/self-compassion-can-improve-your-resiliency/art-20267193>

World Health Organization. (2018, March). *Questions and answers on immunization and vaccine safety*. <https://www.who.int/features/qa/84/en/>

References

The content of this handout was adapted with changes/additions from the following sources:
American Psychological Association. (2019). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.).

Hacker, D., & Sommers, N. (2015). *A writer's reference* (8th ed.). Bedford/St. Martin's.

This handout was created by the Writing Centers at YVC.

Yakima Campus, Glenn Anthon 125 | Grandview Campus, Grandview Main 101

Visit us at the [Writing Center's homepage](#).

