APA 6th Edition

APA format uses the name-date method. Using this method, you provide a short parenthetical reference when you cite in your paper, and then list all your sources in a reference list at the end of your paper.

The legend at the bottom of the page will help you figure out what kind of information should be included and the order in which it should appear in your citation. This list is not comprehensive but does contain the most commonly occurring kinds of citations used in university. For more help, consult a Student Success writing tutor.

In-Text Citations

Whenever you quote directly from, or refer to, a source in your work, you need to use an in-text citation. In-text citations consist of the author’s last name, the date the work was published, and the page number from which the quotation is taken, each separated by a comma:

“Our understanding of national identity must allow for the ‘expression of diverse types of identities within the public space’” (Winter, 2011, p. 3) 

When the author’s name is included in your sentence, you don’t need to repeat that in the parenthetical citation:

As Elke Winter (2011) notes, “a pluralist ‘national we’ is bounded by opposition to a real or imagined ‘Others’ with a capital O” (p. 5).

This applies to both print and electronic sources of both types.

Kinds of In-Text Citations:

A Work by One or Two Authors:

Include the surname of each author every time you refer to the source:
One study has found that progressive discipline in education “has the potential to enhance students’ social and behavioural literacy” (Milne & Aurini, 2015, p. 51).

**A Work by Three or More Authors:**

Include the last name of each author the first time you cite the work. In later citations, provide the last name of the first author followed by “et al.” (“and others”):

Effective research requires more effort than simply searching for resources on the internet (Messenger, de Bruyn, Brown & Montagnes, 2017, p. 384). Wherever you conduct your research, make sure to avoid plagiarism by staying organized and taking notes on all sources you consult (Messenger et al., 2017, p. 384).

**A Work by a Government Agency or a Corporate Author:**

In place of the author’s last name (because it might not be available), provide the name of the agency or organization.

Statistics Canada (2013) has found that for most young Canadians, “the process of identifying and narrowing career expectations lasts beyond adolescence and well into adulthood” (p. 4).

**A Work by an Anonymous Author:**

In a situation where the author is anonymous, use a short version of the title in place of the author’s last name:

The most expensive white diamond ever bought at auction is “the 118.28-carat oval-cut gem that sold...for $30.6 million [USD] in 2013” (“Colors,” 2015, p. 34).

In this example, “Colors” is short for “The Colors of Money,” the title of an unsigned magazine article.

**An Online Document with No Page Numbers:**

If you are citing an online document and it does not have any page numbers, count the paragraphs following the title and assign a number to the relevant paragraph:


Legend: Author  Title  Publication Information  Electronic Source
Law professor Michael Geist argues that “the emergence of new voices and the innovative approaches at older ones point to the likelihood that journalism is neither dead nor dying” (Geist, 2016, para. 12).

In this case, the term “para” is short for “paragraph” and should only be used when there are no page numbers to follow.

Building A Works Cited List


Legend: Author  Title  Publication Information  Electronic Source
A list of works cited appears at the end of your essay and includes the full publication information for all the works you have referenced.

Entries should be in alphabetical order according to author last name. In place of the author’s first name, use their initials. If there is more than one work by an author published in the same year, assign a letter to each entry:


**Books with One Author:**

Follow this format:

Author’s last name, first initial. (year of publication). *Title of the Work*. City and State of Publication: name of publisher.


**Books with Two Authors:**

Use the same format as above, but include both authors in your citation


For books with three or more authors, follow the same format, but be sure to include the names of all the authors of the piece.

**An Electronic Book**

If you have used an electronic version of a book that appears in print, include the same information you would in a print book, and the book’s DOI (digital object identifier) if available. If the DOI is not available, use the URL from which the source was retrieved.
An Anthology of Collected Works:

If your source is an anthology with works by several different authors, you must cite each work individually by the author’s last name.


A Book Chapter in an Edited Book

If you are using a book chapter from a book with an editor, begin with the author of the chapter.


A Journal Article

Journal Articles require a bit more information than books. Just using the title of the article isn’t enough. You also need to include the title of the journal (in italics). If the journal article has been found online, you will need to include the DOI number as well.

Be sure to include the volume and issue numbers. In the case below, the volume number is 190, and the issue number is 5. Please note there is no space between these numbers.


Legend: Author Title Publication Information Electronic Source
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