

APA referencing

APA (American Psychological Association) referencing style

This resource explains some of the more common applications of the APA style. It is based on the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.) (2010), pp. 169–224.

You should always check your unit guide and/or with academic staff (unit chair, lecturer or tutor) to make sure that this is the recommended style for your unit.

You must reference *all* material you use from *all* sources and acknowledge your sources in the body of your paper each time you use a fact, a conclusion, an idea or a finding from someone's work. This establishes the authority of your work and acknowledges the researchers and writers you have drawn upon in your paper.

It is necessary to cite your sources each time you:

- reproduce an author's exact words (quote), that is, copy word for word directly from a text. A page number must be given.
- use your own wording (summarise or paraphrase) to explain or discuss what someone has said. You are encouraged to provide page numbers.

If you copy an entire table, chart, diagram or graph or if you take only some of the data contained in such sources, you must provide a reference.

Sources such as journals, books, encyclopedias, computer programs and software, information from the internet, reports, newspapers, interviews, radio and television must be cited in the body of your paper and detailed in a reference list at the end. Information from Deakin study guides and readers must also be acknowledged.

The APA style of referencing consists of two elements:

1. *in-text citations*, giving author, year and sometimes page number in the body of the paper
2. a *reference list* at the end of the paper, providing complete details for each in-text citation.

Part 1 of this resource deals with *in-text citations*. Part 2 shows how to present the related *reference list entries* for in-text citations.

PART 1: In-text citations

One author

When you refer to a single author, include the author's family name and year of publication using one of the forms shown here.

Clay (2003) argues that having a planned approach to writing essays can be of great benefit.

or

Essay writing can be made much more manageable if a planned approach is taken (Clay, 2003).

For citing an author or authors more than once in any one paragraph, see instructions under **Repeat citations of a study within one paragraph.**

Multiple authors

For **two** authors, include the family names of both authors and the year as required.

According to Antonakos and Kazanis (2003) there are advantages to keeping design and research methods simple. ← use 'and' when family names are outside parentheses

or

There are advantages to keeping design and research methods simple (Antonakos & Kazanis, 2003). ← use '&' when family names are inside parentheses

In the case of **three, four or five** authors, cite all authors the first time, then in subsequent citations of this work use the family name of the first-listed author plus 'et al.' and the year as required.

Gagliardi, Frederickson and Shanley (2002) argue that in order to provide consistent care, healthcare professionals often face the dilemma of finding similarities in patient responses to illness while at the same time respecting the uniqueness of each individual patient. However, despite any apparent similarities in symptoms or limitations, Gagliardi et al. contend all patients should be treated differently. Furthermore, according to the Roy Adaptation Model (Roy & Andrews, 1999), nurses need to make comprehensive assessments of each patient.

← first time, all family names plus date

← after first citation, use family name of first author plus 'et al.'

← after first citation of an author/s in the **narrative**, you need cite only the family name/s in the same paragraph (i.e. no date required)

For **six or more authors** use only the family name of the first-listed author plus 'et al.' in all citations including the first. Use date as appropriate.

Mahon et al. (1997) reviewed how nursing diagnosis content is presented in nursing textbooks.

Repeat citations of a study within one paragraph

In any one paragraph, if you cite an author or authors more than once in the **narrative** (i.e. the author's name does not appear in parentheses), include the family name/s and year the first time. In subsequent citations in the narrative in the **same paragraph** you need to cite only the family name/s, provided studies cannot be confused.

According to Savage (2004) little attention has been given to the way a nurse might identify and Savage argues that in an environment of evidence-based practice ... ←

← author cited in the narrative

← in subsequent citation in the narrative, date not repeated within paragraph

In discussing ways of researching emotion, Savage (2004) highlights the importance of... ←

← include date in new paragraph

When the name of the author/s **and** year are in **parentheses** in any one paragraph, the year is included in subsequent citations.

Little attention has been given to the way a nurse might identify and ... (Savage, 2004). Savage (2004) argues that in an environment of evidence-based practice ... ←

← author and year cited in parentheses the first time and so year is included in subsequent citations

Secondary source

Sometimes you read one author (secondary) who cites another (primary).

In the example that follows, you have read Savage who referred to a publication by Lupton, but you did not read Lupton yourself.

Lupton (as cited in Savage, 2004) distinguishes between “emotional labour” and “emotional work”.

*Lupton, whom you did not read, is cited here, but **not** in the reference list.*

*Savage, the author you did read, is cited here **and** is listed in the reference list.*

Article or chapter in an edited book

An edited book is one that consists of chapters or articles written by different authors.

You need to acknowledge the author of the chapter or article you used. This author is cited in text (that is, in the body of the paper) in the same way as for one or more authors.

In the example that follows, Naidoo has written a chapter in a book edited by Thorogood and Coombes. In the body of your assignment cite only Naidoo.

Naidoo (2000) claims that risk factor simulation models...

Note: The entry in the reference list gives full details of the publication. Under the name of the author (Naidoo) you need to give the details of the chapter you read plus the details of the book.

Group or organisation as author

Where the author is a government agency, association, corporate body or the like, which has a familiar or easily understandable abbreviation, it is cited as follows:

Obesity in Australian men and women increased during the 1980s (National Health and Medical Research Council [NHMRC], 1997).

first time, use full title plus abbreviation in square brackets

A single cause for obesity (NHMRC, 1997).

subsequent citations of this report should use the abbreviation

Note: The entry in the reference list is under National Health and Medical Research Council.

No author name provided

If no author is designated, in text cite the first few words of the title, and the year. Full title details are provided in the reference list entry.

Studies suggest that many IVF couples would donate excess embryos to scientific research (“Embryo study,” 2004).

Use double quotation marks around the title of an article, chapter or web page. Use italics and no quotation marks in text for the title of a periodical, book, brochure or report with no author.

Alternatively,

Students experience writer's block because "they have not given sufficient thought to reviewing course content and developing their ideas" (Clay, 2003, p. 47).

← author, date,
page number

Long quotes, known as 'block quotes' (40 or more words), should:

- start on a new line
- be indented about 5 spaces from the left hand margin
- be double spaced
- omit quotation marks.

author, date

An important stage in assignment writing is planning. Clay (2003) comments that:

Some students are tempted to plunge into writing their assignment, beginning with the introduction, but soon find that they experience "writer's block" and cannot decide what to write next. The problem occurs because they have not given sufficient thought to reviewing course content and developing their ideas about relating the theory to their practice. (p. 47)

← page number

There are a variety of ways that students can plan...

PART 2: Reference list

An important purpose of the reference list is to enable readers to locate sources. Therefore details must be correct and complete. Each in-text citation and the related reference list entry should be identical in spelling and year. A work is listed only once in the reference list, regardless of how many times it is cited in text. Works not cited in the text should not appear in the reference list.

In compiling your APA reference list, you should:

- list references on a new page with a centred heading titled 'References'
- include books, journal articles, online sources etc. in one alphabetical listing
- order entries alphabetically by family name of author/s
- list works with no author under the first significant word of the title
- indent second and subsequent lines of each entry (5–7 spaces)
- use double spacing.

Some examples follow; others can be found at <www.apastyle.org>.

Note: the examples are separated and placed under subheadings here to show each form. In a reference list, however, they would be all together in alphabetical order with no subheadings.

Book

Author, A., & Author, B. (year). *Title of book* (edition if not first). City: Publisher.

Capitalise only the first letter of the first word of a book title and any proper nouns. The first letter of the subtitle (if any) is capitalised also.

Burton, L. J. (2010). *An interactive approach to writing essays and research reports in psychology* (3rd ed.). Milton, Qld: John Wiley & Sons.

Article or chapter in an edited book

Author, A., & Author, B. (year). Title of chapter. In C. Editor & D. Editor (Eds.), *Title of book* (pp. xx–xx). City: Publisher.

Capitalise only the first letter of the first word of an article or chapter title, and any proper nouns.

Naidoo, B. (2000). Evaluating the use of public health risk factor simulation models. In M. Thorogood & Y. Coombes (Eds.), *Evaluating health promotion: Practice and methods* (pp. 99–109). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Book, online

Author, A., & Author, B. (year). *Title of book*. [details about the format if available]. doi or Retrieved from web address

If a digital object identifier (DOI) is provided then it should be given; if no DOI is available then the web address or uniform resource locator (URL), should be given. Date of retrieval is not required.

Munsterberg, H. (1916). *The photoplay: A psychological study*. Retrieved from <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/15383/15383-8.txt>

Journal article

Author, A., & Author, B. (year). Title of article. *Title of Journal, volume number* (issue number), page numbers.

- *The issue number should be indicated only if each issue of a journal begins on page 1.*
- *Capitalise only the first letter of the first word of an article title and subtitle, and any proper nouns.*
- *Capitalise the first letter of every main word in the journal title.*
- *Include a digital object identifier (DOI) if provided.*

Antonakos, C. L., & Kazanis, A. S. (2003). Research process in the health sciences: A focus on methods. *Research and Theory for Nursing Practice, 17*, 257–264.

Clay, G. (2003). Assignment writing skills. *Nursing Standard, 17*(20), 47–52.

Journal article, online

Author, A. (year). Title of article. *Title of Journal, volume number* (issue number), page numbers. doi or Retrieved from web address

If a digital object identifier (DOI) is provided then it should be given; if no DOI is available then the home page web address of the journal, or uniform resource locator (URL), should be given. Date of retrieval is not required.

Ekwall, A., Gerdtz, M., & Manias, E. (2008). The influence of patient acuity on satisfaction with emergency care: perspectives of family, friends and carers. *Journal of Clinical Nursing, 17*, 800–809. doi:10.1111/j.1365-2702.2007.02052.x

Midford, R. (2005). Australia and alcohol: Living down the legend. *Addiction, 100*, 891–896. Retrieved from <http://www.addictionjournal.org>

Newspaper article

Author, A. (year, month day). Title of article. *Title of Newspaper*, p. x.

Wroe, D. (2004, June 24). Canberra enlists GPs in war on smoking. *The Age*, p. 3.

Newspaper article, no author

Title of article. (year, month day). *Title of Newspaper*, p. x.

Embryo study nod, OK say IVF couples. (2004, May 31). *Herald Sun*, p.10.

Newspaper article, online

Author, A. (year, month day). Title of article. *Title of Newspaper*. Retrieved from home page web address

Nader, C. (2009, June 19). Mental health issues soar among children. *The Age*. Retrieved from <http://www.theage.com.au>

Document, online

Author, A. (year). *Title of document*. Retrieved from web address

Retrieval date is given if it is believed the information could change over time.

Northern Territory Department of Justice. (2007). *Step forward: Getting help about sexual violence*. Retrieved from <http://www.nt.gov.au/justice/documents/stepforward.pdf>

Group or organisation as author

Organisation name. (year). Details of the work as appropriate to its form.

When the author and the publisher are the same, use the word Author as the name of the publisher.

Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2007). *Migration Australia, 2005-06* (Cat. No. 3412.0). Canberra: Author. Retrieved from [http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/E0A79B147EA8E0B5CA2572AC001813E8/\\$File/34120_2005-06.pdf](http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/E0A79B147EA8E0B5CA2572AC001813E8/$File/34120_2005-06.pdf)

Up to seven authors

Author, A., Author, B., Author, C., Author, D., Author, E., Author, F., & Author, G. (year). Details of the work as appropriate to its form.

Provide family names and initials of all authors.

Eight or more authors

Author, A., Author, B., Author, C., Author, D., Author, E., Author, F., ... Author, M. (year). Details of the work as appropriate to its form.

Provide the family names and initials of the first six authors followed by three ellipsis points and the last author's family name and initial.

Web page

Author, A. (year). Title of page. Retrieved month, day, year from web address

The title of a web page is not italicised.

Retrieval date is given if it is believed the information could change over time.

Diabetes Australia. (2010). Gestational diabetes. Retrieved July 22, 2010 from <http://www.diabetesaustralia.com.au/Understanding-Diabetes/What-is-Diabetes/Gestational-Diabetes-/>

Sample reference list in APA style

References

- Antonakos, C. L., & Kazanis, A. S. (2003). Research process in the health sciences: A focus on methods. *Research and Theory for Nursing Practice*, 17, 257–264.
- Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2007). *Migration Australia, 2005-06* (Cat. No. 3412.0). Canberra: Author. Retrieved from [http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/E0A79B147EA8E0B5CA2572AC00113E8/\\$File/34120_2005-06.pdf](http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/E0A79B147EA8E0B5CA2572AC00113E8/$File/34120_2005-06.pdf)
- Burton, L. J. (2010). *An interactive approach to writing essays and research reports in psychology* (3rd ed.). Milton, Qld: John Wiley & Sons.
- Clay, G. (2003). Assignment writing skills. *Nursing Standard*, 17(20), 47–52.
- Diabetes Australia. (2010). Gestational diabetes. Retrieved July 22, 2010 from <http://www.diabetesaustralia.com.au/Understanding-Diabetes/What-is-Diabetes/Gestational-Diabetes/>
- Ekwall, A., Gerdtz, M., & Manias, E. (2008). The influence of patient acuity on satisfaction with emergency care: perspectives of family, friends and carers. *Journal of Clinical Nursing*, 17, 800–809. doi:10.1111/j.1365-2702.2007.02052.x
- Embryo study nod, OK say IVF couples. (2004, May 31). *Herald Sun*, p.10.
- Midford, R. (2005). Australia and alcohol: Living down the legend. *Addiction*, 100(7), 891–896. Retrieved from <http://www.addictionjournal.org>
- Munsterberg, H. (1916). *The photoplay: A psychological study*. Retrieved from <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/15383/15383-8.txt>
- Nader, C. (2009, June 19). Mental health issues soar among children. *The Age*. Retrieved from <http://www.theage.com.au>
- Naidoo, B. (2000). Evaluating the use of public health risk factor simulation models. In M. Thorogood & Y. Coombes (Eds.), *Evaluating health promotion: Practice and methods* (pp. 99–109). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Northern Territory Department of Justice. (2007). *Step forward: Getting help about sexual violence*. Retrieved from <http://www.nt.gov.au/justice/documents/stepforward.pdf>
- Wroe, D. (2004, June 24). Canberra enlists GPs in war on smoking. *The Age*, p. 3.

Further reading

APA referencing can be accessed online at <www.deakin.edu.au/referencing>.

Other resources available at this web address include:

Avoiding plagiarism and collusion
Summarising, paraphrasing and quoting
Why reference?

The APA website provides further examples at <www.apastyle.org>.

Burton, L. J. (2010). *An interactive approach to writing essays and research reports in psychology* (3rd ed.). Milton, Qld: John Wiley & Sons.

Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (6th ed.). (2010). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.