APA References ~ Common Examples with Patterns

The American Psychological Association (APA) has developed standardized methods for citing print and electronic sources used in research. Below are instructions according to the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th edition) and http://www.apastyle.org/.

**General Instructions**

Alphabetize each entry in a works cited list by the first letter, ignoring the articles A, An, and The. Indent subsequent lines of entries one-half inch. The entire paper, including the references, should be double-spaced (examples here are not double-spaced for economizing space).

**Names:** Use initials for first and middle names.

**Titles:** For articles, chapters and books, capitalize only the first word of the title and subtitle and proper nouns. Fully capitalize journal/magazine titles. Book and journal titles have to be italicized.

**Dates:** Publication dates use the order year, month day. The access date uses the order month day year. If no publication date is available, use "n.d." in place of date.

The following examples illustrate some of the more common resources you may use. If you cannot find all of the information in the pattern, cite what is available. Different styles may apply when citing print and other sources. Check the APA Manual for a complete list of examples.

**Journal Article**

**Pattern:**

[Author last name], [First initial]. [Middle initial]. (Publication year). [Title of article]. [Title of journal], [Volume number][Issue number], [Page number starts]-[ends].

**Example:**

Journal Article w/ No Author

Pattern:

[Title of article]. ([Publication year]). [Title of journal], [Volume number][Issue number], [Page number starts]-[ends].

Example:


Online Magazine Article

Pattern:

[Author last name], [First initial]. ([Year], [Month]). [Article Title] [Title of magazine]. Retrieved from [URL]

Example:


Online Newspaper Article

Pattern:

[Author last name], [First initial]. [Middle initial]. ([Year], [Month] [Day]). [Title of article]. [Title of newspaper].

Example:

Online Newspaper Article w/ No Author

Pattern:

[Title of article]. ([Year], [Month] [Day]) [Title of newspaper].

Example:


Book

Pattern:

[Author last name], [First initial]. [Middle initial]. ([Publication year]). *[Title of book]*. [Location]: [Publisher].

Example:


Reference Book Chapter

Pattern:

[Author last name], [First initial]. [Middle initial]. ([Publication year]). [Title of chapter]. In, *[Title of book]* (pp. [Page number starts]-[ends]). [Location]: [Publisher].

Example:

**Website**

**Pattern:**

[Author Last Name], [Author First Name Initial]. ([Date of publication]). [*Title of document*]. Retrieved from [URL]

**Example:**


**Image**

**Pattern:**

[*Title of image*]. ([Date of creation]).

**Example:**


**Video / Audio**

**Pattern:**

[*Title of video / audio*]. ([Date of creation]).

**Example:**


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These are only basic examples of the APA style. More detailed information is available through the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th edition) and [http://www.apastyle.org/](http://www.apastyle.org/). In addition, a variety of third-party style guides and web sites can provide further assistance.

Always consult your library resources for the exact formatting and punctuation guidelines.