

APA References - Condensed Guide

Condensed from “APA References: A Guide for Psychology Undergraduates”

I. REFERENCE SECTION

Double-space references. Do not indent first line of a source; do indent all following lines (known as a *hanging indent*; APA Publication Manual, 6th Ed.). Use only one space after periods, not two. The 6th Edition of the APA Publication Manual requires extra references information related to finding that reference using online tools like PsychInfo and journal websites.

A. Journal article by one author with doi (digital object identifier):

Thompson, L. (1990). Negotiation behavior and outcomes: Empirical evidence and theoretical issues.

Psychological Bulletin, 108, 515-332. doi:10.1037/0033-2909.108.3.515

B. Journal article by two authors when reference was retrieved from a hard-copy print version:

Loesche, L. S., & Tsai, S. D. (1998). Beneficial effects of caffeine on writing style. *Human Behaviour*, 5, 1-43.

C. Journal article by three to seven authors and referenced when doi is not available and the reference was retrieved online:

Saywitz, K. J., Mannarino, A. P., Berliner, L., & Cohen, J. A. (2000). Treatment for sexually abused children and adolescents. *American Psychologist*, 55, 1040-1049. Retrieved from <http://www.apa.org/journals/amp/>

D. Journal article, more than seven authors with doi, as an advance online publication (i.e., journal has not gone to print yet, but .pdf of article is already available online):

Wolchik, S. A., West, S. G., Sandler, I. N., Tein, J., Coatsworth, D., Lengua, L., . . . Griffin, W. A. (2000). An experimental evaluation of theory-based mother and mother-child programs for children of divorce.

Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, 68, 843-856. Advance online publication. doi:

10.1037//0022-006X.68.5.843

E. Book chapter:

Booth, D. A. (1980). Conditioned reactions in motivation. In F. M. Toates & T. R. Hall (Eds.), *Analysis of motivational processes* (pp. 77-102). New York: Academic Press.

F. Book:

Toates, F. M., & Hall, T. R. (Eds.). (1980). *Analysis of motivational processes*. New York: Academic Press.

Note: If more than one city is given for the publisher of a book, name the most convenient city for locating the book (e.g., Academic Press is published in New York and London; cite only New York).

2. CITATIONS IN TEXT

A. First time cited

- **One author:**

Thompson (1990) reviewed research on negotiation and found that it spans many disciplines.

Negotiation research spans many disciplines (Thompson, 1990).

This effect has been widely studied (Abbott, 1991; Kelso, 1998; Martini, 1992).

Note: With multiple references (see example 3 above), cite authors in alphabetical order.

- **Two to five authors** (use ‘&’ within parentheses; use ‘and’ outside parentheses):

Becker and Seligman's (1996) findings contradicted this result.

This result was later contradicted (Becker & Seligman, 1996).

Medvec, Madey, and Gilovich (1995) examined the influence of "what might have been" thoughts on satisfaction among a group of Olympic medalists.

Research on Olympic medalists has shown that bronze medalists are more satisfied than silver medalists (Medvec, Madey, & Gilovich, 1995).

- **Six or more authors**

(Cite only the last name of the first author, followed by "et al." and the year of publication):

Barakat et al. (1995) attempted to . . .

Recent research (Barakat et al., 1995) has found that . . .

Note: "et al." is from the Latin "et alia", which means "and others". "Et" is a whole word (no period); "al." is an abbreviation.

B. Citing the same article within the same paragraph

Note: The guidelines below refer only to correct citation of sources in the text (see examples). However, when you cite a source in parentheses at the end of a sentence, always include both author and year.

If you cite a paper in the text more than once in a single paragraph, omit the year in subsequent citations, unless you are citing more than one work by the same author. To cite a reference by three or more authors more than once in the same paragraph, use only the first author's last name followed by "et al."

Note: If you have multiple sources with three or more authors that have the same first author, include additional names to distinguish the sources from one another. For example:

“Jones, Smith, Cleaver, et al. found that...”

“In contrast, Jones, Smith, Simpson, et al. found...”

C. Citing the same article in subsequent paragraphs

- **One or two authors:** Use the same format as for the first citation.
- **Three or more authors:** Include only the first author's last name followed by "et al." and the year of publication:

Medvec et al. (1995) examined the influence of "what might have been" thoughts on satisfaction among Olympic medalists.

Research on satisfaction among Olympic medalists has shown that bronze medalists are more satisfied than silver medalists (Medvic et al., 1995).

D. Secondary sources

Use sparingly and only when necessary. Suppose that you want to refer to a 1989 study by Nguyen and Lee, which you read about in a 1996 study by Becker and Seligman. Use one of the following citations:

Nguyen and Lee (as cited in Becker & Seligman, 1996) found the opposite effect in two-year-olds.

The opposite effect was observed in two-year-olds (Nguyen & Lee, as cited in Becker & Seligman, 1996).

In the References, list only Becker and Seligman (the source that you read).

Reference:

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