American Psychological Association (APA) Style

In APA, the way we cite is designed to situate our argument in a larger body of work. We are using sources to assert our argument as a viable option to consider. This style is popular in:

- Computer science and information management
- Education
- Environmental and physical sciences
- Human, behavioral, social, and political sciences
- Linguistics

Most APA papers are formatted using double-spacing, so all examples in this handout will be double-spaced.

What Should Citing in APA Look Like?

In APA, your in-text citations will usually follow the (Author Publication, Year) format for quotes and paraphrases that lack an introduction that uses the author's name. In all APA citations, APA places the year right after the author. The reason for this is because in APA, having the most up-to-date information is paramount—which is why we see this citation style commonly used in research fields like the sciences. If the quote or paraphrase is introduced by the author's name, your in-text citations will usually follow the (Publication Year) format. For examples, see the sections below.

Paraphrasing

When you paraphrase, you are taking someone else's words and summarizing what they said using your own words. By paraphrasing, you are not focused on exact wording of your source but are using your own interpretation of your source to bolster your argument. In APA, paraphrasing is the preferred method of incorporating sources.

Without the Author's Name Introducing the Paraphrase

Using tree rings to date live oak trees can be difficult. Because live oaks are

evergreen and live in regions that rarely see extreme winter temperatures, tree rings in live

oaks need to be carefully assessed due to distinguish individual growth rings. (Bartens et

al., 2011, p. 20).

With the Author's Name Introducing the Paraphrase
        According to Bartens et al. (2011), using tree rings to date live oak trees can be

difficult. Because live oaks are evergreen and live in regions that rarely see extreme winter

temperatures, tree rings in live oaks need to be carefully assessed due to distinguish

individual growth rings (p. 20)

Quoting
You will almost never quote when using APA. The reason is to give a focus on the existing research and how your work fits into or rebels against the existing work; however, it is possible you will quote, so this handout will include examples. Check with your instructor before including quotes.

When you quote, you do so because you need the exact language the author used to further your argument.

Without the Author's Name Introducing the Quote
        Using tree rings to date live oak trees can be difficult because "live oak rings are

often faint" (Bartens et al., 2011, p. 20).

With the Author's Name Introducing the Quote
        In a 2011 study, Bartens et al. found that using tree rings to date live oak trees

can be difficult because "live oak rings are often faint" (p. 20).

References Page

In APA, your final section will be "References." This page is a list of all the sources you chose to use in your paper. Your sources will be listed alphabetically with a hanging indent. Depending on the source, the citation format will slightly change. Below is a series of examples of the most common types of sources.

Publications with a Single Author

Author's Last Name, Author's First Initial. (Publication Year). *Publication Title*. Publisher.

Love, B.L. (2019). *We Want to Do More Than Survive: Abolitionist Teaching and the*

Pursuit of Educational Freedom. Beacon Press.

Publications with Two to Twenty Authors

First Author's Last Name, First Author's First Initial., Second Author's Last Name, Second

Author's First Initial., *… (Publication Year). *Publication Title*. City of Publication:

Publisher.

Håkansson, N. T., & Widgren, M. (2016). *Landesque Capital: The Historical Ecology of Enduring Landscape Modifications*. Routledge.

*Continue listing all authors

Publication by Editor(s)

Editor Last Name, Editor First Initial(s). (Ed.) (Publication Year). *Publication Title*.

Publisher.

Kalipeni, E., Craddock, S., Oppong, J.R., & Ghosh, J. (Eds.) (2004). *HIV& AIDS in Africa:*

Beyond Epidemiology. Blackwell Publishing.

Publication Edition Other Than First

Author's Last Name, Author's First Initial(s). (Publication Year). *Publication Title* (Edition).

Publisher.

Booth, W.C., Colomb, G.G., & Williams, J.M. (2008). *The Craft of Research* (3rd Ed.). The

University of Chicago Press.

E-Book
Author's Last Name, Author's First Initial(s). (Publication Year). *Book Title*. Publisher. DOI

or URL if applicable.

Ward, J. (2013). *Men We Reaped: A Memoir*. Bloomsbury.

Article in a Journal
Author's Last Name, First Initials. (Publication Year). Article Title. *Journal Title, Volume

Issue*(Edition Number), Page Number(s).doi or URL.

Garcia-Cuerva, L., Berglund, E.M., & Rivers, L. (2018). An Integrated Approach to Place Green

Infrastructure Strategies in Marginalized Communities and Evaluate Stormwater

Mitigation. *Journal of Hydrology*, 559(1), 648 – 660.

Abstract
Author's Last Name, Author's First Initials. (Publication Year). Title of Abstract [Abstract].

 Journal Title, Page Number. doi or URL.

Nagaoka, L., Rick, T., & Wolverton, S. (2018). The Overkill Model and Its Impact on

 Environmental Research [Abstract]. *Ecology and Evolution*, 9683.

 doi.org/10.1002/ece3.4393.

Organization or Company as an Author
Organization/Company Name. (Publication Year). *Publication Title* (Edition).

UNT Writing Center. (2019). *American Psychological Association (APA) Style* (2).

Wiki
Searched Term. (Year, Month Day Last Updated). In *Wikipedia*. URL.

Phonology. (2022, July 14). In *Wikipedia*. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phonology.

Web Source—Entire Website
In APA, entire websites that are only cited in-text are not included on References pages.
When you cite in-text, you will use the name of the website and include the URL. For
example:

National Geographic.com has many articles about trending and cutting-edge science

topics.

Web Source with an Author
Author's Last Name, First (and Second) Initial(s). (Publishing Year, Publishing Month).

Publication Title. Publisher. URL.

Blakemore, E. (2019, July). *How are tree rings used to help date an archaeological site?*

National Geographic.

https://www.nationalgeographic.com/culture/archaeology/how-tree-rings-date-

archaeological-site/.

Podcast

Host Last Name, Host First Initial(s). (Host). (Year, Month Day of Publication). Podcast

Episode Title [Audio podcast episode]. In *Podcast Name*. Publisher. URL if

Available.

Drag Queen, B.T., & Change, M.X. (Hosts). (2022, 13 July). The One About Working

Together [Audio podcast episode]. In *Sibling Rivalry*. Sibling Rivalry & Studio 71.

Video (Online)

Video Publisher. (Year, Month Day of Publication). *Video Title* [Video]. Online Video Host.

URL.

Aaron Jack/Freemote. (2021, February 25). *Programming vs Coding – What's the*

Difference? [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CIRGjwYgdT4.

Film
Director Last Name, Director First Initial(s). (Release Year). *Film Title* [Film]. Film Studio.

Morris, D. (1994). *The Language of the Body* [Film]. BBC.

Social Media Post
Account Name [Account Handle if Applicable]. (Year, Month Day of Publication). *First 20*

Words, Hashtags, and Emojis of Post Caption [Description of Attachment to

Caption]. Social Media Name. URL.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration [@nasa]. (2022, July 18). *Is there a pair*

more iconic than Saturn and its rings? But there was a time where the majestic gas

[photograph]. Instagram. https://www.instagram.com/p/CgK2ftQpCCy/.

APA Style Resources
For further information about APA and APA citation, check out these resources:
- The UNT Writing Center
- *A Writer's Reference* by Diana Hacker
- APAStyle.APA.org
- Owl.Purdue.edu/Owl/Research_And_Citation/APA_Style/APA_Formatting_And_Style_Guide/General_Format.html

Keep in mind websites like CitationGenerator or EasyBib can make citing easy; however, these generators are not perfect, so always double-check their work.

References

Bartens, J., Grissino-Mayer, H.D., Day, S.D., & Wiseman, E. (2011). Evaluating the

potential for dendrochronological analysis of live oak (Quercus virginiana Mill.) from

the urban and rural environment—An explorative study. *Dendrochronologia*, 30(2):

15-21. doi.org/10.1016/j.dendro.2011.04.002.

Garcia-Cuerva, L., Berglund, E.M., & Rivers, L. (2018). An Integrated Approach to Place

Green Infrastructure Strategies in Marginalized Communities and Evaluate Stormwater

Mitigation. *Journal of Hydrology, 559*(1), 648 – 660.

Hacker, Diana. *A Writer's Reference*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2015. Print.

Håkansson, N. T., & Widgren, M. (2016). *Landesque Capital: The Historical Ecology of Enduring*

Landscape Modifications. London and New York: Routledge.

Love, B.L. (2019). *We Want to Do More Than Survive: Abolitionist Teaching and the Pursuit of*

Educational Freedom. Boston: Beacon Press.