

# APA Style Guide

Updated: March 2020 – Ed. A.Bross

**Mahoney Library**  
College of Saint Elizabeth  
<https://www.cse.edu/library/>

## What is APA Style?

APA Style is the reference format used by the **American Psychological Association**. It is widely accepted in the social sciences, as well as in other fields like business, education, and nursing. This guide shows formats and examples for the most commonly used resources.

- ✓ For full details on citing sources, see the *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association: the official guide to APA style.*, 2020. – REF 808.06615 Am3574

## General Rules of APA Style

- ✓ Paper Formatting
  - Font: Use the same font throughout your paper. Options include:
    - A sans serif font, such as 11-point Calibri, 11-point Arial, or 10-point Lucida
    - A serif font such as 12-point Times New Roman or 11-point Georgia.
  - Spacing: Your entire paper and works cited page (bibliography) should be double spaced.
  - Margins: 1" margins for top, bottom, right, and left.
  - Your entire paper should be aligned to the left. New paragraphs get a 0.5" indent for the first line. Reference list page (bibliography) should have a hanging indent of 0.5".
- ✓ There are instances where you will cite something within your paper but will not list it in your reference list (such as personal communications).
- ✓ General mentions of whole websites or periodicals and common software and apps do not require a citation or reference list entry.
- ✓ Authors on your Reference list should be listed alphabetically.

## Citation Style

APA uses the *author-date citation system* to cite references in the text. This means you will be providing the surname of the author and the date of publication, and they should match the surname and date used in your reference list. In-text citations have two formats: parenthetical and narrative.

- ✓ Parenthetical Citations: Author name and publication date appear in parenthesis.
- ✓ Narrative Citations: Author name and publication date are incorporated into the text as part of a sentence.

## Principles of Reference List Entries

**Author:** Who is responsible for the work?

**Date:** When was this work published?

**Title:** What is this work called?

**Source:** Where can I retrieve this work?

## Citations by Item Type – Periodicals

### Journal Article with a Doi

McCauley, S.M. & Christiansen, M.H. (2019). Language learning as language use: A cross-linguistic model of child language development. *Psychology Review*, 126 (1), 1-51.

<https://doi.org/10.1037/rev0000126>

**Parenthetical citation:** (McCauley & Christiansen, 2019)

**Narrative citation:** McCauley and Christiansen (2019)

### Journal, magazine, or newspaper article without a DOI

Ahmann, E. (2018). A descriptive review of ADHD coaching research: Implications for college students. *Journal of Postsecondary Education and Disability*, 31(1), 17-39.

<https://www.ahead.org/professional-resources/publications/jped/archived-jped/jped-volume-31>

**Parenthetical citation:** (Ahmann, 2018)

**Narrative citation:** Ahmann (2018)

Note: You do not need to include a URL or database name if you retrieve the journal, magazine, or newspaper article from an academic database.

### Blog Post

Klymkowsky, M. (2018, September 15). Can we talk scientifically about free will? *Sci-Ed*.

<https://blogs.plos.org/scied/2018/09/15/can-we-talk-scientifically-about-free-will/>

**Parenthetical citation:** (Klymkowsky, 2018)

**Narrative citation:** Klymkowsky (2018)

### Editorial

Cuellar, N. G. (2016). Study abroad programs [Editorial]. *Journal of Transcultural Nursing*, 27(3). 209.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/1043659616638722>

**Parenthetical citation:** (Cuellar, 2016)

**Narrative citation:** Cuellar (2016)

---

## Citations by Item Type – Books & Reference Works

### Book

Burgess, R. (2019). *Rethinking global health: Frameworks of power*. Routledge

**Parenthetical citation:** (Burgess, 2019)

**Narrative citation:** Burgess (2019)

Note: If the book has a DOI, simply include it after the publisher.

### **Book with Editor**

Jacklin, C. N. (Ed.). (1992). *The psychology of gender*. New York University Press.

Note: If the book has more than one publisher, separate the names by using semicolons. If the book has a DOI, simply include the DOI after the publisher.

### **Ebook (without a DOI and from a source outside of a database)**

Christian, B., & Griffiths, T. (2016). *Algorithms to live by: The computer science of human decisions*. Henry Hold and Co. <http://a.co/7qGBZAK>

**Parenthetical citation:** (Christian & Griffiths, 2016)

**Narrative citation:** Christian & Griffiths (2016)

### **Audiobook**

Cain, S. (2012). *Quiet: The power of introverts in a world that can't stop talking* (K. Mazur, Narr.) [Audiobook]. Random House Audio. <http://bit.ly/2G0Bpbl>

**Parenthetical citation:** (Cain, 2012)

**Narrative citation:** Cain (2012)

### **Chapter in a Book**

Bank, S. C., & Packer, I. K. (2007). Expert witness testimony: Law, ethics, and practice. In A. M. Goldstein (Ed.), *Forensic psychology: Emerging topics and expanding roles* (pp. 421-445). John Wiley & Sons.

**Parenthetical citation:** (Bank & Packer, 2007)

**Narrative citation:** Bank & Packer (2007)

### **Entry in a dictionary, thesaurus, or encyclopedia, with group author**

American Psychological Association. (n.d.). Positive transference. In APA dictionary of psychology. Retrieved August 31, 2019, from <https://dictionary.apa.org/positive-transference>

**Parenthetical citation:** (American Psychological Association, n.d.)

**Narrative citation:** American Psychological Association (n.d.)

Note: When an online reference work is continuously updated and the versions are not archived, use "n.d." as the year of publication and include a retrieval date.

### **Wikipedia Entry**

List of oldest companies. (2019, January 13). In Wikipedia.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=List\\_of\\_oldest\\_companies&oldid=878158136](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=List_of_oldest_companies&oldid=878158136)

**Parenthetical citation:** (“List of Oldest Companies,” 2019)

**Narrative citation:** “List of Oldest Companies” (2019)

Note: Cite the archives version of the page so that readers can retrieve the version you used. Access the archived version on *Wikipedia* by selecting “View history” and then the time and date of the version you used. If a wiki does not provide permanent links to archived versions, include the URL for the entry AND the retrieval date.

---

## Citations by Item Type – Dissertations & Theses, Conference Sessions, & Presentations

### Dissertation or thesis from a database

Hollander, M. M. (2017). *Resistance to authority: Methodological innovations and new lessons from the Milgram experiment* (Publication No. 10289373) [Doctoral dissertation, University of Wisconsin-Madison]. ProQuest Dissertations and Theses Global.

**Parenthetical citation:** (Hollander, 2017)

**Narrative citation:** Hollander (2017)

### Dissertation or thesis published online (not in a database)

Hutcheson, V. H. (2012). Dealing with dual differences: Social coping strategies of gifted and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer adolescents [Master’s thesis, The College of William & Mary]. William & Mary Digital Archive.

<https://digitalarchive.wm.edu/bitstream/handle/10288/16594/HutchesonVirginia2012.pdf>

**Parenthetical citation:** (Hutcheson, 2017)

**Narrative citation:** Hutcheson (2017)

### Conference Session

Fistek, A., Jester, E., & Sonnenberg, K. (2017, July 12-15). *Everybody’s got a little music in them: Using music therapy to connect, engage, and motivate* [Conference session]. Autism Society National Conference, Milwaukee, WI, United States.

<https://asa.confex.com/asa/2017/webprogramarchives/Session9517.html>

**Parenthetical citation:** (Fistek et al., 2017)

**Narrative citation:** Fistek et al. (2017)

### Paper presentation

Maddox, S., Hurling, J., Stewart, E., & Edwards, A. (2016, March 30-April 2). *If mama ain’t happy, nobody’s happy: The effect of parental depression on mood dysregulation in children* [Paper

presentation]/ Southeastern Psychological Association 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, United States.

**Parenthetical citation:** (Maddox et al., 2016)

**Narrative citation:** Maddox et al. (2016)

---

## Citations by Item Type – Audiovisual Works

### Film or Video

Forman, M. (Director). (1975). *One flew over the cuckoo's nest* [Film]. United Artists.

**Parenthetical Citation:** (Forman, 1975)

**Narrative Citation:** Forman (1975)

### TV Series

Simon, D., Colesberry, R.F., & Kristoff Noble, N. (Executive Producers). (2002-2008). *The wire* [TV series]. Blown Deadline Productions; HBO.

**Parenthetical citation:** (Simon et al., 2002-2008)

**Narrative citation:** Simon et al. (2002-2008)

### TED Talk

Giertz, S. (2018, April). *Why you should make useless thing* [Video]. TED Conferences.  
[https://www.ted.com/talks/simone\\_giertz\\_why\\_you\\_should\\_make\\_useless\\_things](https://www.ted.com/talks/simone_giertz_why_you_should_make_useless_things)

**Parenthetical citation:** (Giertz, 2018)

**Narrative citation:** Giertz (2018)

### YouTube Video

Fogarty, M. [Grammar Girl]. (2016, September 30). *How to diagram a sentence (absolute basics)* [Video]. YouTube. <https://youtu.be/deiEY5Yq1qI>

**Parenthetical citations:** (Fogarty, 2016)

**Narrative citations:** Fogarty (2016)

---

## A Quick Note & Additional Resources

This is by no means an exhaustive guide to APA. There are many more nuances and different situations explained within the text of the style guide itself, which is available in the Reference section of Mahoney Library. Please refer to it for more complicated questions or examples regarding citations and formatting.

Some additional resources are:

**[APA Style website](#)**

Official website of the APA style. Has instructional aids, handouts with quick-reference guides, and a blog with updated news and information.

**[Purdue University's Online Writing Lab \(OWL\)](#)**

Extensive Reference resource that is regularly updated and checked. This has more extensive information regarding formatting for paper, citations, and references.