APA guidelines for authors

SST uses the American Psychological Association (APA) system of in-text citations and references. We have included some examples of citations and referencing as a refresher. Note that APA requires page numbers in citations for quotes or paraphrases, and that the use of et al. is followed by a comma (et al.,). APA recommends an authordate style of citations. Some examples of citations (Section 1) and reference entries (Section 2) follow.

Make sure all citations are listed in the reference list, and the reference list only contains the works cited.

1. Citation entries

1.1a In text citation

As researchers Yanovski and Yanovski (2002) have explained obesity was once considered "either a moral failing or evidence of underlying psychopathology" (p.592).

1.1b As an entry in the reference list

Yanovski, S.Z., & Yanoski, J.A. (2002). Drug therapy: Obesity. The New England Journal of Medicine, 346, 591-602.

1.2 Two or more works in the same parentheses



Note placement of punctuation.

When your parenthetical citation names two or more works, put them in the same order that they appear in the reference list, separated by semicolons.

Researchers have indicated that studies of pharmacological treatments for childhood obesity are inconclusive (Berkowitz et al., 2003; McDuffie et al., 2003).

1.3 Organization as author

Obesity puts children at risk for a number of medical complications, including type 2 diabetes, hypertension, sleep apnea, and orthopedic problems (Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, 2004, p.1).

If the organization has a familiar abbreviation, include it in brackets the first time you cite the source and use the abbreviation alone in later citations.

First citation: (National Institute of Mental Health [NIMH], 2001)

Later citations: (NIMH, 2001)



Benedikt Dolzer Wilbankstraße 141 52076 Aachen

4. Authors with the same last name

To avoid confusion, use initials with the last names if your reference list includes two or more authors with the same last name.

Research by E. Smith (1989) revealed that [...]

5. Indirect source

If you use a source that was cited in another source, name the original source in your signal phrase. List the secondary source in your reference list and include it in your parenthetical citation, preceded by the words "as cited in." In the example, Critser is the secondary source.

Former surgeon general Dr. David Satcher described "a nation of young people seriously at risk of starting out obese and dooming themselves to the difficult task of overcoming a tough illness" (as cited in Critser, 2003, p.4).

6. Personal communication

Cite interviews, memos, letters, e-mail, and similar unpublished person-to-person communication as follows:

One of Atkinson's colleagues, who studied the effect of the media on children's eating habits, has contended that advertisers for snack foods will need to design ads responsibly for their younger viewers (F. Johnson, personal communication, October 20, 2004).



Do not include personal communications in your reference list.

7. An electronic document

Cite an electronic document as you would any other document.

Atkinson (2001) found that children who spent at least four hours a day watching TV were less likely to engage in adequate physical activity during the week.

Electronic sources may lack page numbers, authors' names, or dates. APA suggests the following:

1.7a Unknown author

If no author is named, mention the title in the signal phrase or give the first word or two of the title in parentheses.

The boy's basal metabolic rate, or BMR, is a measure of its at-rest energy requirement ("Exercise,"2003).



Benedikt Dolzer Wilbankstraße 141 52076 Aachen



1.7b No page numbers

When an electronic source lacks stable page numbers, your citation should include information that will help readers locate the passage being cited. If the document has numbered preceded by the symbol ¶ or by the abbreviation "para.": (Hall, 2001, ¶5) or (Hall, 2001, para. 5).

1.7c Neither a page nor a paragraph given

If neither a page nor a paragraph is given and the document contains headings, cite the appropriate heading and indicate which paragraph that heading you are referring to.

Hoppin and Tavaras (2004) pointed out that several other medications were classified by the Drug Enforcement Administration as having "potential for abuse" (Weight-Loss Drugs section, para.6).

8. Two or more works by the same author in the same year.

When your list of references includes more than one work by the same author in the same year, use lowercase letters ("a," "b," and so on) with the year to order the entries in the reference list. Use those same letters in the in-text citation.

Research by Durgin (2003b) has yielded new findings about the role of counseling in treating childhood obesity.

2. Reference entries

Multiple authors: List up to six authors by last names followed by initials. Use ampersand (&) instead of the word "and." Make sure et al. is followed by a comma (et al.,).

2.1 Articles in periodicals

2.1.1 Article in a journal

2.1.1.1 Article in a journal, paginated by volume

Morawski, J. (2000). Social psychology a century ago. American Psychologist, 55, 427-431.

2.1.1.1 Article in a journal, paginated by issue

Smith, S. (2003). Government and nonprofits in the modern age. Society, 40(4), 36-45.

Benedikt Dolzer Wilbankstraße 141 52076 Aachen

2.1.2 Article in a magazine

Raloff, J. (2001, May 12). Lead therapy won't help most kids. Science News, 159, 292.

2.1.3 Review

Gleick, E. (2000, December 14). The burdens of genius [Review of the book The Last Samurai]. Time, 156, 171.

2.2 Books

2.2.1 Basic format

Highmore, B. (2001). Everyday life and cultural theory. New York: Routledge.

2.2.2 Book with an editor

The first example is for a book with editors but no author; the second is for a book with an author and an editor.



Notice indentation of second line.

- Bronfen, E. & Kavka, M. (Eds.). (2001). Feminist consequences: Theory for a new century. New York: Columbia University Press.
- Plath, S. (2000). The unabridged journals (K.V. Kukil, Ed.). New York: Anchor.

2.2.3 Translation

Steinberg, M.D. (2003). Voices of revolution, 1917 (M. Schwartz, Trans.). New Haven, CT: Yale University Press. (Original work published 2001).

2.2.4 Edition other than the first

Heifer, M.E., Keme, R.S., & Drugman, R.D. (1997). The battered child (5th ed.). Chiago: University of Chicago Press.

2.2.5 Article or chapter in an edited book

Meskill, L. (2001). Archaeologies of identity. In I. Hodder (Ed.), Archaeological theory today (pp. 187-213). Cambridge, England: Polity Press.

2.2.6 Multivolume work

Luo, J. (Ed). (2005). China today: An encyclopedia of life in the People's Republic (Vols.1-2). Westport, CT: Greenwood Press.



Benedikt Dolzer Wilbankstraße 141 52076 Aachen

2.3 Electronic Sources

The publication information for some online sources includes a DOI.

APA uses the DOI when available, in the reference list entries. If there is no DOI, use the URL for the article or the journal's homepage.

2.3.1 Article from an online periodical

Whitmeyer, J.M. (2000). Power through appointment. Social Science Research, 29(4), 535-555. doi: 10.1006/ssre.2000.0680

Ashe, D.D., & McCutcheon, L.E. (2001). Shyness, loneliness and attitude toward celebrities. Current Research in Social Psychology, 6(9), 124-133. Retrieved from http:// www. uiowa.edu/~grpproc/ crisp/crisp.6.9.htm

2.3.2 Article from a database

To cite an article from a library's subscription database, include the publication information for the source. If the article has a DOI, give that number at the end and do not include the database name and the document number assigned by the database, if any.

- Howard, K.R. (2007). Childhood overweight: Parental perceptions and readiness for change. The Journal of School Nursing, 23(2), 73-79. Retrieved from PsycINFO database (2007-05057-003).
- Halliday, R.E., & Hayes, B.K. (2000). Dissociating automatic and intentional processes in children's eyewitness memory. Journal of Experimental Child Psychology, 75 (1), 1-42- doi: 10.1006/ jecp.1999.2521

2.3.3 Document form a website/ gray literature

APA refers to non-peer reviewed work, such as reports, brochures, fact sheets, press releases, and newsletter articles as "gray literature." List as many of the following elements as possible: author's name, publication date (or "n.d." for "no date"), title, and URL. Give your date of access only if the source has no date or if its content is likely to change.

Cain, A., & Burris, M. (1999, April). Investigation of the use of mobile phones while driving. Retrieved from http://www.cutr.eng.usf.edu/ its/mobile_phone:text.htm

Archer, D. (n.d.). Exploring nonverbal communication. Retrieved March 2, 2006, from http://nonverbal.ucsc.edu



Benedikt Dolzer Wilbankstraße 141 52076 Aachen

2.3.4 Chapter or section in a Web document

Begin with publication information as for a chapter from a book, but do not include the city or publisher. End with either the name of the database and the document number or the URL for the chapter or section.

Stephensen, R.H. (2007). Super-sized kids: Obesity, children, moral panic, and the media. In J.A. Bryant (Ed.), The children's television community (pp.277-291). Retrieved from PsycINFO database (2006-21782-008).

2.3.5 Entry in a wiki

Begin with the title of the entry and the date of posting, if there is one (use "n.d." if there is not). Then add your retrieval date, the name of the wiki, and the URL for the home page of the specific entry. If an author is identified, include that name at the beginning of the entry.

Ethnomethodology. (n.d.). Retrieved August 22, 2007, from the STSWiki: http://stswiki.org/index.php/Ethnomethodology

2.3.6 Government document

U.S. Census Bureau. (2006). Statistical abstract of the United States. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

2.3.7 Conference Proceedings

Stahl, G. (Ed.). (2002). Proceedings of CSCL '02: Computer support for collaborative learning. Hillsdale, NJ: Erlbaum.

2.3.8 Report from a private organization

If the publisher is the author, use the word "Author" as the publisher. If the report has an author, begin with the author's name, and give the organization as publisher at the end.

American Psychiatric Association. (2000). Practice guidelines for the treatment of patients with eating disorders (2nd ed.). Washington, DC: Author.



For more examples of APA visit apastyle.apa.org

All examples provided are from: Hacker, D. (2008). A pocket style manual (5th ed.). Boston, MA: Bedford/ St. Martin. pp171-184.



Benedikt Dolzer Wilbankstraße 141 52076 Aachen