APA Style—Reference List/In-Text

This handout is meant to give you a broad overview of the kind of information needed for a reference list page. It is by no means comprehensive. For specific information on documenting particular sources, consult a style guide such as *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* or *A Writer's Reference*. When using the reference list information below, skip any information not provided by your source. For instance, if a book has no author, begin the entry with the title of the book followed by the date. To conserve space, the examples have been single-spaced; however, in an actual reference list, all entries should be double-spaced.

**APA Reference List**

**Print Sources**

**Book**
Author's last name, First initial. Middle initial. (Year of publication). *Title of the book*. City: Publisher.


**Chapter in an Edited Book**
Author's last name, First initial. Middle initial. (Year of publication). Title of the article. In editor's name (Ed.), *Title of the book* (pages of the article). City: Publisher.


**Periodical—Journal Paginated by Issue**
Author's last name, First initial. Middle initial. (Year of publication). Title of the article. *Title of Periodical*, *Volume* *(Issue)*, pages of the article.


**Periodical—Journal Paginated by Volume**
Author's last name, First initial. Middle initial. (Year of publication). Title of the article. *Title of Periodical, Volume*, pages of the article.


**Periodical—Magazines**
Author's last name, First initial. Middle initial. (Year, date of publication). Title of the article. *Title of Periodical, Volume*, pages of the article.

Periodical—Newspapers
Author's last name, First initial. Middle initial. (Year, date of publication). Title of the article.  
*Title of Periodical*, pages of the article.


Electronic Sources

**Article from an Internet-only Journal**
Author's last name, First initial. Middle initial. (Year of publication). Title of the article. *Title of Periodical, Volume*(Issue). Retrieval date, from URL


**Journal Article from a Database**
Author's last name, First initial. Middle initial. (Year of publication). Title of the article. *Title of Periodical, Volume*, pages of the article. Retrieval date, from database (document number).


**Non Periodical Web Document**
Author's last name, First initial. Middle initial. (Date of publication). *Title of the document*.  
Retrieval date, from URL


**APA In-Text**

APA uses an author-date system of in-text citation. Each of the samples below is followed by the entry that would appear on the reference list page.

**In-Text Citation for a Quotation**
Include the author's last name, the year of publication, and the page number.

*In-Text*
Szasz (2004) commented, "We are hypocrites if we ignore who the parties are that support the enactment of mental health laws and deny patients the option of rejecting psychiatric services" (p. 8).

or

"We are hypocrites if we ignore who the parties are that support the enactment of mental health laws and deny patients the option of rejecting psychiatric services" (Szasz, 2004, p. 8).
Reference List Entry

In-Text Citation for a Paraphrase or Summary
Include the author's last name and the year of publication. The page number is not required; however, it is recommended especially when citing a section from a long work.

In-Text
According to Meyer and Smith (1987), a beginning writer may use academic jargon incorrectly in an attempt to sound sophisticated. Part of a tutor's job, then, is to help that student develop his or her unique voice (p. 162).

or

A beginning writer may use academic jargon incorrectly in an attempt to sound sophisticated. Part of a tutor's job, then, is to help that student develop his or her unique voice (Meyer & Smith, 1987, p. 162).

Reference List Entry

Electronic Publications
Include the author's last name, the year of publication, and the page number or paragraph number. For sites lacking page numbers or paragraph numbers, give the heading and paragraph number. If that information is unavailable, simply provide the author's last name and the year of publication.

In-Text
Psychologists Seff, Gecas, and Frey (1993) argued that "research on birth order effects has been remarkably inconsistent and inconclusive with regard to various personality and behavioral outcomes" (Introduction section, ¶ 4).

Reference List Entry

No Author/No Date
Include a shortened title of the work (Use italics for books and periodicals; use double quotations for articles.), the year of publication (If no publication date is available use the abbreviation n.d.), and the page number, if applicable.

In-Text
Merton asserted that the "lack of integration between what the culture calls for and what the structure permits . . . causes deviant behavior" (*Merton's Strain*, n.d.).

Reference List Entry


