

# Using APA Format

## *Creating a reference page using the American Psychological Association guidelines*

At the end of a research paper, you need to provide a list of the works you've consulted. This should be done on a separate page with References centered at the top, and the citations listed below in alphabetical order and with a hanging indent. The *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6<sup>th</sup> ed.) provides citation examples covering a wide variety of potential sources. Below are examples for some of the most commonly cited sources. If your particular source is not listed below, or for information on other aspects of writing papers, visit the library and check the *Publication Manual*, consult the APA Style website (<http://www.apastyle.org>), the APA Style blog (<http://blog.apastyle.org/>), or consult Diana Hacker's *Research and Documentation in the Electronic Age* (<http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/>). You can also contact the Writing Center at (651) 793-1460 or [centerfolk@metrostate.edu](mailto:centerfolk@metrostate.edu).

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### Journal article, any format, one author, with DOI

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Burns, J. G. (2008). Validity of three tests of temperament in guppies (*Poecilia reticulata*). *Journal of Comparative Psychology*, 122(4), 344-356. doi:10.1037/0735-7036.122.4.344

**\*\* Note:** DOI stands for Digital Object Identifier, a unique number for a document that is usually available on the document's first page or in the database record. It can also sometimes be found via <http://www.crossref.org/>

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### Journal article from a website

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Keown, D. (1995). Are there "human rights" in Buddhism? *Journal of Buddhist Ethics*, 2. Retrieved from <http://www.buddhistethics.org/>

**\*\* Note:** No retrieval date is necessary for content that is unlikely to be changed or updated, like a journal article. When in doubt, use a retrieval date.

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### Magazine article from website

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Blount, R., Jr. (2008, July 3). Mark Twain: Our original superstar. *Time*. Retrieved from <http://www.time.com/>

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### Journal article, print format, two authors, no DOI

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Brinkerhoff, M. B., & Jacob, J. C. (1999). Mindfulness and quasi-religious meaning systems: An empirical exploration within the context of ecological sustainability and deep ecology. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 38(4), 524-542.

## Journal article, from database, multiple authors, no DOI

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Diessner, R., Solom, R. C., Frost, N. K., Parsons, L., & Davidson, J. (2008). Engagement with beauty: Appreciating natural, artistic, and moral beauty. *The Journal of Psychology*, 142(3), 303-329.  
Retrieved from <http://www.heldref.org/pubs/jrl/about.html>

**\*\* NOTE:** For more than seven authors, list the first six, followed by three ellipsis dots and the last author's name.  
**\*\* NOTE:** Even when you retrieve an article from a database, APA 6<sup>th</sup> ed. asks you to use the journal website URL.

## More information on citing articles without DOIs

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*The APA manual 6<sup>th</sup> edition calls for the citing of the journal's official website even if you have retrieved the article from a database. Because it can be difficult to find the journal's website, here are several alternate ways of citing an article, without DOI, from a database. These examples are not strictly APA style, but are modeled on APA style.*

### Using the name of the database

Diessner, R., Solom, R. C., Frost, N. K., Parsons, L., & Davidson, J. (2008). Engagement with beauty: Appreciating natural, artistic, and moral beauty. *The Journal of Psychology*, 142(3), 303-329. Retrieved from Psychology and Behavioral Sciences Collection.

### Using the URL for the database

Diessner, R., Solom, R. C., Frost, N. K., Parsons, L., & Davidson, J. (2008). Engagement with beauty: Appreciating natural, artistic, and moral beauty. *The Journal of Psychology*, 142(3), 303-329. Retrieved from <http://web.ebscohost.com/>

### If the article is in PDF form, omitting online retrieval information altogether

Diessner, R., Solom, R. C., Frost, N. K., Parsons, L., & Davidson, J. (2008). Engagement with beauty: Appreciating natural, artistic, and moral beauty. *The Journal of Psychology*, 142(3), 303-329.

## Book, organization as author and publisher

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American Psychiatric Association. (2000). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders* (4<sup>th</sup> ed., text revision). Washington, DC: Author.

## An electronic book

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Russel, B. (2008). *The problems of philosophy*. Retrieved from <http://books.google.com/>

### **A book or article with no author or editor named**

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*Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary* (10th ed.). (1993). Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster.

**Or**

New drug appears to sharply cut risk of death from heart failure. (1993, July 15). *The Washington Post*, p. A12.

**\*\*NOTE:** For parenthetical citations of sources with no author named, use a shortened version of the title instead of an author's name. Use quotation marks and italics as appropriate. For example, parenthetical citations of the two sources above would appear as follows: (*Merriam-Webster's*, 1993) and ("New Drug," 1993).

### **An article or chapter in a book**

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O'Neil, J. M., & Egan, J. (1992). Men's and women's gender role journeys: Metaphor for healing, transition, and transformation. In B. R. Wainrib (Ed.), *Gender issues across the life cycle* (pp. 107-123). New York, NY: Springer.

### **A translated and/or a republished work**

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Laplace, P.-S. (1951). *A philosophical essay on probabilities* (F. W. Truscott & F. L. Emory, Trans.). New York, NY: Dover. (Original work published 1814).

**\*\*NOTE:** When you cite this work in text, it should appear with both dates: Laplace (1814/1951).

### **Work discussed in a secondary source**

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Coltheart, M., Curtis, B., Atkins, P., & Haller, M. (1993). Models of reading aloud: Dual-route and parallel-distributed-processing approaches. *Psychological Review*, *100*, 589-608.

**\*\* NOTE:** Give the secondary source in the references list; in the text, name the original work, and give a citation for the secondary source. For example, if Seidenberg and McClelland's work is cited in Coltheart et al. and you did not read the original work, list the Coltheart et al. reference in the References. In the text, use the following citation: In Seidenberg and McClelland's study (as cited in Coltheart, Curtis, Atkins, & Haller, 1993) . . .

### **A review of a book, film, television program, etc.**

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Baumeister, R. F. (1993). Exposing the self-knowledge myth [Review of the book *The self-knower: A hero under control*]. *PsycCRITIQUES*, *38*(5), 466-467.

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### **An entry in an encyclopedia**

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Bergmann, P. G. (1993). Relativity. In *The new encyclopaedia Britannica* (Vol. 26, pp. 501-508).

Chicago, IL: Encyclopaedia Britannica.

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### **An entry in an online encyclopedia**

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Graham, G. (2007). Behaviorism. In E. N. Zalta (Ed.), *The Stanford encyclopedia of philosophy*.

Retrieved from <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/behaviorism/>

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### **An online dictionary**

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Heuristic. (n.d.). In *Merriam-Webster's online dictionary*. Retrieved from

<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/>

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### **A brochure**

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Research and Training Center on Independent Living. (1993). *Guidelines for reporting and writing about people with disabilities* (4th ed.) [Brochure]. Lawrence, KS: Author.

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### **A government publication**

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National Institute of Mental Health. (1990). *Clinical training in serious mental illness* (DHHS

Publication No. ADM 90-1679). Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

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### **An online government publication**

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Pashler, H., Bain, P., Bottge, B., Graesser, A., Koedinger, K., McDaniel, M., and Metcalfe, J. (2007).

*Organizing instruction and study to improve student learning* (NCER 2007-2004). Washington, DC: National Center for Education Research, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education. Retrieved from <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/pdf/practiceguides/20072004.pdf>

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### **A company SWOT analysis**

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*3M Company: Financial and strategic analysis review*. (2009, August). [SWOT analysis]. Retrieved from Business and Company Resource Center.

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### **A company profile**

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*General Mills Inc.* (n.d.). [Company profile]. Retrieved from Business and Company Resource Center (DC303811).

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### **Plain ol' website**

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Federal Bureau of Investigation. (n.d.). *Human Trafficking*. Retrieved from <http://www.fbi.gov/hq/cid/civilrights/slavery.htm>

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### **Wiki**

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Psychometrics. (n.d.). Retrieved April 21, 2009, from The Psychology Wiki: <http://www.psychology.wikia.com/wiki/Psychometrics/>

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### **A motion picture, DVD, or video tape**

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Kalogridis, L., Wilson, C. (Producers), & Cameron, J. (Director). (2009). *Avatar* [Motion picture]. United States: Twentieth-century Fox.

*NOTE: Change the format designation as appropriate, for example, [DVD].*

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### **A television broadcast**

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Koromvokis, L. (Producer). (2010, January 22). *The PBS newshour* [Television broadcast]. Washington, DC: Public Broadcasting Service.

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### **A single episode of a television series, available online**

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Whedon, J. (Writer & Director). (1997, September 15). When she was bad [Television series episode]. In F. R. Kurzui (Producer), *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. Los Angeles, CA: Twentieth-century Fox Television. Retrieved from <http://www.hulu.com/>

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### **Audio podcast**

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Van Nuys, D. (Producer). (2006, October 13). Understanding autism [Show 54]. *Shrink Rap Radio*. Podcast retrieved from <http://www.shrinkrapradio.com/>

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### Video weblog post

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Norton, R. (2006, November 4). How to train a cat to operate a light switch [Video file]. Retrieved from <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vja83KLQXZs>

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### Blog post

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PZ Myers. (2007, January 22). The unfortunate prerequisites and consequences of partitioning your mind [Web log post]. Message posted to [http://www.scienceblogs.com/pharyngula/2007/01/the\\_unfortunate\\_prerequisites.php](http://www.scienceblogs.com/pharyngula/2007/01/the_unfortunate_prerequisites.php)

**NOTE:** *If only the screen name is available for the author, then use the screen name; however, if the author provides a real name, use their real name instead.*

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### A music recording

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Taupin, B. (1975). Someone saved my life tonight [Recorded by Elton John]. On *Captain fantastic and the brown dirt cowboy* [CD]. London, United Kingdom: Big Pig Music Limited.

### ***Can't find your document type here?***

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### **Models for creating a citation**

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Author. (date). Title of document. *Title of larger site or publication*. Retrieved from <http://www.urlhere.org/>

Title if no author. (date). Retrieved February 29, 2008, from <http://irgoodwebsite.net/>

Author. (date). Title of document that does not seem part of something larger [Format-if-useful]. Retrieved from URL or Database Name.

Author. (date). *Title of standalone major work*. Retrieved from <http://www.greatu.edu/booksplace/>

**\*\*Note:** *These models are not provided by the APA Manual 6<sup>th</sup> edition, but have been created by Metro State librarians to help you format citations for documents and files that the manual does not explicitly address.*

Available in alternative formats for people with disabilities.  
Call Disability and Special services at 651.793.1540 (voice) or 651.772.7687 (TTY).