

APA Format

APA format is often used for research papers, especially in the social sciences. This is an important style to know for college papers!

Font

There are many acceptable fonts for APA format.

Sans serif fonts: 11-point Calibri, 11-point Arial, or 10-point Lucida Sans

Serif fonts: 12-point Times New Roman, 11-point Georgia, or (10-point) Computer Modern

Note: Your paper should be double-spaced regardless of font.

Title Page

Your title page should be center justified, and it should include the title of your paper, your name, your department affiliation and school's name, the class number and title, your professor's name, and the date. The title of your paper should be bolded, and there should be a space between the title and your name. The examples to the right offer a template, showing what should be included in your title page, and an example of an APA title page.

Header

A header is the top margin of the page, and this often includes the title of the work, the author's name, and/or the page number. For APA student papers, you only need the page number, right justified in the header. Your professor may wish for you to include your name or your paper title in your header, but only the page number is required for APA student papers.

Internal Citations

Internal citations are used in academic writing to indicate what information comes from which sources. There are two types of internal citations: parenthetical and narrative.

Here is an example of a parenthetical internal citation:

“Many professors require or prefer APA format (Vandal et al., 2020, p.12).”

OR, you may use a narrative citation, like so:

“According to Vandal et al. (2020), many professors require or prefer APA format.”

Internal citations may vary based on the type of source you are referencing and how many authors contributed. For most resources, you should include the author(s) last name(s), the year of publication, and the page(s) you are referencing--separated by commas, like so: (Vandal, 2020, pg. 6). If your source has two authors, you should include both surnames, like so (Vandal & Smith, 2020, pg. 6-9). If your source has two or more authors, you may include the first surname followed by “et al.”, like so: (Vandal et al., 2020, pg. 6-12). Narrative citations will follow the same conventions for surnames.

For narrative citations, you do not need to include page number(s). For parenthetical citations, include page numbers if the source has them. Resources like journals and books will usually have page numbers, but many online resources do not. If your resource does not have page numbers, you do not need to include them. For films, just include the producer, the director, and the year. For lectures, include the lecturer's first initial, last name, and the date of the lecture.

Examples:

Film: (Vandal & Johnson, 2020).

Lecture: (J. Vandal, lecture, January 1, 2020).

<p>Title of Your Paper</p> <p>Your Name</p> <p>Department Affiliation, Name of School</p> <p>Class # and Title</p> <p>Professor's Name</p> <p>Due Date</p>
<p>Joe's Paper Title</p> <p>Joe Vandal</p> <p>Politics and Philosophy, University of Idaho</p> <p>POLS 101: Intro to Political Science</p> <p>Dr. Jane Smith</p> <p>1 October, 2020</p>

References

You will need to include a references page and list all of the sources you consulted and used in your paper. Your references will be similar to your internal citations, depending on the source type. Most references will require the author/creator(s) name(s), the date or year of publication, the title, and where the source came from. The following are templates for common source types.

Book

Author, A. A. (Year of publication). *Title of work: Capital letter also for subtitle*. Location: Publisher.

Article

Author, A. A., & Author, B. B. (Date of publication). Title of article. *Title of Online Periodical, volume number*(issue number if available), page range (if available).

Web Resource

Author, A. A. (Year, Month Date). *Title of page*. Site name. URL

Film

Producer, P. P. (Producer), & Director, D. D. (Director). (Date of publication). *Title of motion picture* [Motion picture]. Country of origin: Studio or distributor.

Lecture

**Lectures are considered “personal communication” and are not listed on references pages. They are only referred to in-text (more about this in the section on in-text citations).

Example Reference Page

The following is an example of the first four entries of a student bibliography page. Please note that it includes a centered title, “References”, it is double-spaced, and it uses a hanging indent.

References

Barber, C. (2016, June 29). *Public Enemy Number One: A Pragmatic Approach to America's Drug Problem*. Richard Nixon Foundation, <https://www.nixonfoundation.org/2016/06/26404/>

Bonczar, T. P. (2003, August). *Prevalence of Imprisonment in the U.S. Population, 1974-2001*, Bureau of Justice Statistics, <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/piusp01.pdf>

Drugs and Crime Facts. Bureau of Justice Statistics, www.bjs.gov/content/dcf/correct.cfm.

Gramlich, J. (2019, April 30). *The gap between the number of blacks and whites in prison is shrinking*. Pew Research Center, <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/04/30/shrinking-gap-between-number-of-blacks-and-whites-in-prison/>

References Consulted

American Psychological Association. (n.d.). *Style and Grammar Guidelines*. American Psychological Association. <https://apastyle.apa.org/style-grammar-guidelines>

Purdue Online Writing Lab. (n.d.). *General APA Guidelines*. Purdue Online Writing Lab. https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/general_format.html