

The APA Documentation System  
Source: Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition  
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**What to Cite:**

1. Quotations
2. Paraphrases of someone else's original ideas
3. Summaries of someone else's original ideas
4. Statistics
5. Charts, graphs, diagrams

**How to "Signal" Source Material**

Avoid "dropping" quotations, paraphrases and summaries into your text without warning; instead, provide clear signal phrases, usually including the author's name, to prepare your readers for the source material. If your "lead-in" will include a verb, choose one that makes your source's stance clear.

S. Elizabeth Bird (1992) observes, "[The tabloids] have repeatedly used the motif of the dead mythic hero (or villain) being alive and ready to return. Among those notables who have refused to die are John F. Kennedy, Hitler, James Dean, and of course Elvis Presley" (p. 179).

**In Text Citations:**

- APA citations are made in the text of the paper, with the combination of a signal phrase and a parenthetical reference. Punctuation around sources will differ depending on where the quotation or paraphrased material falls within a sentence or the text.

**In midsentence:** End the passage with quotation marks, cite the source in parentheses immediately after the quotation marks, and continue the sentence. Use no other punctuation unless the meaning of the sentence requires such punctuation.

**Example:** She states, "The 'placebo effect' . . . disappeared when behaviors were studied in this manner" (Miele, 1993, p. 276), but she did not clarify which behaviors were studied.

**At the end of a sentence:** Close the quoted passage with quotation marks, cite the source in parenthesis immediately after the quotation marks, and end with the period or other punctuation outside the final parenthesis.

**Example:** Meile (1993) found that "the 'placebo effect,' which had been verified in previous studies, disappeared when [only the first group's] behaviors were studied in this manner" (p. 276).

**At the end of a block quote:** Cite the quoted source in parentheses after the final punctuation mark.

**Example:**

**Meile (1993) found the following:**

**The "placebo effect," which had been verified in previous studies, disappeared when behaviors were studied in this manner. Furthermore, the behaviors *were never exhibited again* [italics added], even when reel [sic] drugs were administered. Earlier studies (e.g., Abdullah, 1984; Fox, 1979) were clearly premature in attributing the results to a placebo effect. (p. 276)**

- For a summary or a paraphrase, include the author's last name and the date **either** in a signal phrase **or** in parentheses at the end. (A page number is not required with a summary or paraphrase--but you are encouraged to include one, since this would help an interested reader locate the relevant passage in a long or complex text.)

**According to Bird (1992), the three most common subjects reported in the supermarket tabloids--such as the *National Enquirer* and the *Star*--are celebrity gossip, supernatural encounters, and extraordinary human accomplishments.**

**OR**

**Among the celebrities most popular with tabloid readers are Elizabeth Taylor and Michael Jackson (Bird, 1992, p. 76).**

## References--APA Format

Double space your references list; arrange its entries alphabetically by the authors' last names. Type the word "References" at the top of the page. **Major changes from the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition:** A) Use hanging indents (author is flush left at the margin and the rest of the citation is indented. B) Italicize entries and volume numbers instead of underlining them.

### Book by a Single Author

Fine, G.A. (1992). *Manufacturing tales: Sex and money in American culture*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press.

### Book by More Than One Author

Beck, C.A. J., & Sales, B.D. (2001). *Family mediation: Facts, myths, and future prospects*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

(Note: If a book has more than six authors, list the first six followed by et al.)

Wolchik, S.A., West, S.G., Sandler, I.N., Tein, J., Coatsworth, D., Lengua, L., et al. (2000). *An experimental evaluation of programs for children*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage.

(In text, use the following parenthetical citation each time the work is cited: (Wolchik et al., 2000).

### Book, No Author or Editor

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

### Edited Collection

Gibbs, J.T., & Huang, L.N. (Eds.). (1991). *Children of color: Psychological interventions with minority youth*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

### **Work in an Anthology or Collection**

Massaro, D. (1992). Broadening the domain of the fuzzy logical model of perception. In H. L. Pick Jr., P van den Broek, & D.C. Knill (Eds.), *Cognition: Conceptual and methodological issues* (pp. 51-84). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

### **Daily Newspaper Article, No Author**

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

### **Daily Newspaper Article, Discontinuous Pages**

Schwartz, J. (1993, September 30). Obesity affects economic, social status. *The Washington Post*, pp. A1, A4.

### **Magazine Article**

(Give the date shown on the publication--month for monthlies or month and day for weeklies. Give the volume number.)

Brunvard, J.H. (1990, March). Debunking the urban legend. *Esquire*, 176, 112-120.

Kandel, E. R., & Squire, L. R. (2000, November 10). Neuroscience: Breaking down scientific barriers to the study of brain and mind. *Science*, 290, 1113-1120.

### **Article in a Scholarly Journal with Continuous Annual Pagination**

Mellers, B. A. (2000). Choice and the relative pleasure of consequences. *Psychological Bulletin*, 126, 910-924.

### **Article in A Scholarly Journal Paginated by Issue**

Klimoski, R., & Palmer, S. (1993). The ADA and the hiring process in organizations. *Consulting Psychology Journal: Practice and Research*, 45 (2), 10-36.

## **Personal Communications**

In APA style, personal communications (letters, memos, e-mails, personal interviews, telephone conversations, and the like), are not included in References. Cite the personal communication in the text of your paper with a parenthetical notation as in the example below.

T.K. Lutes (personal communication, April 18, 2001)

(V.-G. Nguyen, personal communication, September 28, 1998)

## **Music Recording**

### ***General Form***

Writer, A. (Date of copyright). Title of song [Recorded by artist if different from writer].

On *Title of album* [Medium of recording: CD, record, cassette, etc.]. Location:

Label. (Recording date if different from copyright date)

### ***Recording***

Shocked, M. (1992). Over the waterfall. On *Arkansas traveler* [CD]. New York:

PolyGram Music.

### ***Recording by artist other than writer***

Goodenough, J. B. (1982). Tails and trotters [Recorded by G. Bok, A. Mayo, & E.

Trickett]. On *And so will we yet* [CD]. Sharon, CT: Folk-Legacy Records. (1990)

## Referencing Electronic Sources--APA Format

(Electronic sources include aggregated databases, online journals, Web sites or Web pages, newsgroups, Web- or e-mail based discussion groups, and Web- or e-mail-based newsletters.)

- If information is obtained from a document on the Internet, provide the Internet address for the document at the end of the retrieval statement.

### Example:

*Electronic reference formats recommended by the American Psychological Association.*

(2000, October 12). Retrieved October 23, 2000, from <http://www.apa.org/journals/webref.html>

- If information is retrieved from an aggregated database, providing the name of the database is sufficient; no address is needed.

### Example:

Eid, M., & Langeheine, R. (1999). The measurement of consistency and occasion specificity with latent class models: A new model and its application to the measurement of affect. *Psychological Methods, 4*, 100-116. Retrieved November 19, 2000, from the PsycARTICLES database.

- Use "available from" to indicate that the URL leads to information on how to obtain the cited material, rather than to the material itself.

### Example:

Department of Health and Human Services, National Center for Health Statistics. (1991).

*National Health Provider Inventory: Home health agencies and hospices, 1991*

[Data file]. Available from National Technical Information Service Web site,

<http://www.ntis.gov>

- Finish the retrieval element with a period, *unless* it ends with an Internet address.

### **Internet Articles Based on a Print Source**

- If the on-line article is an exact duplicate of the print version, use the form in the following example:

VandenBos, G., Knapp, S., & Doe, J. (2001). Role of reference elements in the selection of resources by psychology undergraduates [Electronic version]. *Journal of Bibliographic Research*, 5, 117-123.

- If you are referencing an online article that you have reason to believe has been changed (e.g. the format differs from the print version or page numbers are not indicated) or includes additional data or commentary, use the form in the following example:

VandenBos, G., Knapp, S., & Doe, J. (2001). Role of reference elements in the selection of resources by psychology undergraduates. *Journal of Bibliographic Research*, 5, 117-123. Retrieved October 13, 2001, from <http://jbr.org/articles.html>

### **Article in an Internet-Only Journal**

Fredrickson, B. L. (2000, March 7). Cultivating positive emotions to optimize health and well-being. *Prevention & Treatment*, 3, Article 0001a. Retrieved November 20, 2000, from <http://journals.apa.org/prevention/vollume3/pre0030001a.html>

### **Multipage Document Created by Private Organization, No Date**

- When an Internet document comprises multiple pages (i.e. different sections have different URLs), provide a URL that links to the home (or entry) page for the document.)

#### **Example:**

Greater New Milford (CT) Area Healthy Community 2000, Task Force on Teen and Adolescent Issues. (n.d.). *Who has time for a family meal? You do!* Retrieved October 5, 2000, from <http://www.familymealtime.org>

## **In-Text Citation of Electronic Sources**

- Many electronic sources do not provide page numbers. If paragraph numbers are visible, use them in place of page numbers. Use the paragraph symbol or the abbreviation "para."

**As Myers (2000 para. 5) aptly phrased it, "positive emotions are both an end--better to live fulfilled, with joy [and other positive emotions]--and a means to a more caring and healthy society."**

- If there are headings in the document and neither paragraph nor page numbers are visible, cite the heading and the number of the paragraph following it to direct the reader to the location of the quoted material, as in the example below:

**"The current system of managed care and the current approach to defining empirically supported treatments are shortsighted" (Beutler, 2000, Conclusion section, para. 1)**

- In some cases, it may be necessary to omit a location reference altogether, such as when no page or paragraph numbers are visible and headings either are not provided or their use would prove unwieldy or confusing. In documents accessed with a Web browser, readers will be able to search for the quoted material.

## **Helpful Websites**

- APA website: [www.apastyle.org](http://www.apastyle.org)
- Avoiding Plagiarism and Self-Test:  
[http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r\\_plagiar.html](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_plagiar.html)
- Paraphrase: Write it in Your Own Words:  
[http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r\\_paraphr.html](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_paraphr.html)