

A Quick Guide to APA Referencing

Referencing systems, such as APA and MLA, are used to help readers find the texts that you refer to in your paper and to give credit for other people's ideas. It is very important to use them correctly in academic writing.

There are two parts to APA references. In the body of your paper you provide short **in-text citations**. At the end of your paper you have a more detailed **reference list**. In-text citations are used to help readers find the full information in the reference list at the end of the paper.

In-text Citations

These are short notes designed to help your reader find the full reference in the reference list. They should include the following information:

- Last name of author
- Year
- Page number

Example

As Henderson (2006) states, "Writing is often taught as though it were a linear, sequential process" (p. 3).

The Reference List

All references should include the following information:

- Author
- Year/date
- Title
- Publication information

Example- Print

Henderson, E. (2006). *Writing by Choice*. Toronto: Oxford University Press.
Author Year Title Publication information

Example- Electronic

Sorkin, A. R. (2009). *Too Big to Fail* [Adobe Digital Editions version]. Retrieved from <http://www.ebooks.com>
Author Year Title Publication information

Electronic Sources

Using APA is quite straightforward if you are just using print materials. However, if you are using electronic materials, it can be more difficult to find the information you need for the reference. Here are some examples of how to reference commonly-used electronic sources. Please note that periods are NOT used following a URL.

Newspaper article

Galt, V. (2008, October 16). Manufacturers fear 'much worse to come'. *Globe and Mail*. Retrieved from <http://www.globeandmail.com>

Article on a web page

Collins, J. (n.d.). *It's in the Research*. Retrieved from <http://www.jimcollins.com/books/research.html>

Online video

The Daily English Show. (2008, October 17). #858 Greg Johnson, Johnny Cash, Titanic, Auckland [Video file]. Retrieved from <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V2ZjrkgGHuc>

Online dictionary

Attribution theory. (n.d.). In the *Business Dictionary*. Retrieved from <http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/attribution-theory.html>

Online Book Review

Coy, P. (2010, May 06). How do you stave off a slump? Have Uncle Sam play the market [Review of the book *How the Economy Works* by R. Farmer]. *Businessweek*. Retrieved from http://www.businessweek.com/magazine/content/10_20/b4178086204287.htm

Article from an online periodical (with DOI)

Metzger, L., Nunnenkamp, P., Mahmoud, T.O. (2010). Is corporate aid targeted to poor and deserving countries? A case study of Nestlé's aid allocation. *World Development*, 31(3), 228-243. doi:10.1016/j.worlddev.2009.09.005

More Information

For more information about using APA, check out the official APA website (www.apastyle.org) or consult your academic librarian.