

What is a reference list?

In APA style, information from other authors is credited in two ways, in-text citations and references at the end of the paper (for more information on in-text citations, see our tip sheet on the subject). The reference page lists every source you cited in the paper, when and where they were published, and some information that could help your readers find the original source.

How do I format a reference?

The basic format for a reference includes four elements: author, date, title, and source.

Author: Who is responsible for the work? In many cases, this will be the author's surname and first initials; the reference for *Hamlet* would be "Shakespeare, W." When works have multiple authors, list all of them. When a source has no individual author, list the group or organization who produced it.

Date: When was this work published? For books, journal articles, government reports, and many other sources, only use the year. Use the year, month, and date for newspaper articles and online sources that include a full date. For online sources that are continually updated, use "n.d." to mean *no date*, but include the date you retrieved the information (see example 5 below).

Title: What is this work called? For works that stand alone (e.g., books, reports, webpages), italicize the title. If it's part of a greater whole, (e.g., journal articles, chapters in edited books, episodes of a TV series or podcast), do not italicize the title. Include any additional information in parenthesis (see example 2).

Source: Where can your reader find this work? If the work is part of a greater whole, the greater whole is the source. The source for any work that stands alone is a publisher, website, or database. Additionally, online sources should include a web address. Some sources may include a Digital Object Identifier (DOI), a unique number that identifies articles, books, and other publications. If your source mentions a DOI, you should include it at the end of the reference (see example 1).

How should I format the reference list page?

Start on a new page. At the top this page, write "References," centered and bolded. On the next line, put your first reference, remembering to switch from center-aligned to the special hanging indent. Reference list entries should be arranged alphabetically by author's last name. When there are multiple authors, sort by the first author's last name (e.g., "Andrews, A., & Chang, C." would come before "Browning, B."). If an entry does not have an author – as is the case with

statutes, court cases, and reference books – sort by whatever element appears first in the reference. This is usually the name of a publisher, law, or case.

Your reference page should be in the same font and size as the rest of the paper. Likewise, it should be double-spaced. If you have more references than will fit on one page, it is appropriate to have multiple pages of references.

Reference Examples

1. **Journal article.** Include the names of all authors and note the journal's volume and page numbers.

Hardy, I., Griffiths, N., & Godfray, H. (1992). Clutch Size in a Parasitoid Wasp: A Manipulation Experiment. *Journal of Animal Ecology*, 61(1), 121-129.
doi:10.2307/5515

2. **Newspaper article.** Include the full date the article was published.

Cole, M. (2020, February 20). The FBI Is Investigating Erik Prince for Trying to Weaponize Crop Dusters. *The Intercept*.
<https://theintercept.com/2020/02/20/erik-prince-fbi-investigation-trump-barr/>

3. **Authored book.** Be sure to specify volume or edition number in parenthesis.

Deming, W. E. (1994). *The New Economics for Industry, Government, Education* (2nd ed.). The MIT Press.

4. **Chapter in an edited book.** Include the name and editor of the whole work, as well as the title and page numbers of the chapter you reference.

Flint, K. C. (1995). Doctor Death: The Tale of Dr. Evazan and Ponda Baba. In K. J. Anderson (Ed.), *Tales from the Mos Eisley Cantina* (pp. 313-333). Bantam Spectra.

5. Dictionary entry. Include the date you retrieved the information.

Merriam-Webster. (n.d.). Amuse-bouche. In *Merriam-Webster.com dictionary*. Retrieved June 24, 2020, from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/amuse-bouche>

6. Website. When no author is listed, treat the website itself as the author. If no publication date is listed for a page, include the date you retrieved the information.

Center for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). *What is ADHD?* Retrieved June 25, 2020 from <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/adhd/facts.html>

7. Social Media Sources. If the post has a title, use it as the title element. If there is no title, briefly describe the post or use the first few words. Include in brackets the medium (photograph, video, text with link, etc.). The source elements should include the name of the website and a specific web address.

TED-Ed. (2013, March 7). *The difference between classical and operant conditioning - Peggy Andover* [Video]. Youtube.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H6LEcM0E0io>