Using Modified APA-style documentation

The American Psychological Association (APA) endorses a name-year parenthetical reference documentation system that is used in its journals and has come to be used by students in the social sciences and some other disciplines. APA in-text citations alert readers to material you have used from outside sources. These citations function with an alphabetical References list at the end of your paper containing information that enables readers to retrieve the sources you have quoted from paraphrased, or summarized. While there is great diversity in citation formats used in biology-oriented journals, a modified APA style is most commonly used. The following information describe this modified APA style you will want to use in your papers for Biology 111A.

Citing sources in the body of a paper in Modified APA style

In-text citations identify a source by a name (usually an author name) and a year (for copyrighted sources, usually the copyright year). You can often incorporate the relevant name, and sometimes the year, into your sentence. Otherwise, put this information in parentheses, placing the parenthetical reference so that a reader knows exactly what it refers to and is distracted by it as little as possible.

The APA Publication Manual recommends that if you refer to a work more than once in a paragraph, you give the author name and date the first time that you mention the work, and then give only the name after that. There is one exception: If you are citing two or more works by the same author, each citation must include the date so that a reader knows which work is being cited.

APA style requires page numbers for direct quotations only (not for paraphrases or summaries). However, some instructors expect page references for any use made of sources, so find out your instructor’s preferences. Put page numbers in parentheses, using the abbreviation p. before a single page number and pp. when the material you are citing falls on more than one page. Item 1 below, Citing a Paraphrased or Summarized Source—APA, shows citations of a paraphrased source both using and omitting the page number. Please note, however, that the modified APA style does not use page numbers except in the Literature Cited page.

1. Citing a Paraphrased or Summarized Source—Modified APA

People from the Mediterranean prefer an elbow-to-shoulder distance from each other (Morris, 1977). [Name and date cited in parentheses.]
2. Citing One Author—Modified APA

One of his questions is “What binds together a Mormon banker in Utah with his brother, or other coreligionists in Illinois or Massachusetts?” (Coles, 1993).

3. Citing Two Authors—Modified APA

If a work has two authors, give both names in each citation.

Version a: One report describes 2,123 occurrences (Krait & Cooper, 1994) of the literary merits of the work.

Version b: The results Krait and Cooper Report (1994) would not support the conclusions Davis and Sherman (1992) draw in their review of the literature.

When citing two (or more) authors, use an ampersand (&) between the (final) two names in parenthetical references, but write out the word and for references in your own sentence.

4. Citing Three or More Authors—Modified APA

For three or more authors, use the name of the first author followed by et al. for all references. In an article written by Lange, Clemens, & Bruessow, the following format is used to cite the work.

The results of the survey indicate that there are several new pollutants that are suspected of having estrogenic qualities (Lange et. al., 2004).

5. Citing Author(s) with Two or More Works in the Same Year—Modified APA

If you use more than one source written in the same year by the same author(s), alphabetize the works by their titles for the References list, and assign letters in alphabetical order to the years—(1996a), (1996b), (1996c). Use the year-letter combination in parenthetical references. Note that a citation of two or more of such works lists the years in alphabetical order.

Most recently, Jones (1996c) draws new conclusions from the results of 17 sets of experiments (Jones, 1996a; Jones, 1996b).

6. Citing Two or More Authors with the Same Last Name—Modified APA

Include first initials for every in-text citation of authors who share a last name. Use the initials appearing in the Reference list.

R. A. Smith (1997) and C. Smith (1989) both confirm these results.

These results have been confirmed independently (C. Smith, 1989, R. A. Smith, 1997).

7. Citing a Group or Corporate Author—Modified APA

If you use a source in which the “author” is a corporation, agency, or group, an in-text reference gives that name as author. Use the full name in each citation unless an abbreviated version of the name is likely to
be familiar to your audience. In that case, use the full name and give its abbreviation at the first citation; then, use the abbreviation for subsequent citations.

This exploration will continue into the 21st century (National Aeronautics and Space Administration [NASA], 1996).

In subsequent citations, you can then use simply the abbreviated form alone in the body of the text. ([NASA], 1996).

8. Citing More than One Source in a Parenthetical Reference—Modified APA

If more than one source has contributed to an idea or opinion in your paper, cite the sources alphabetically in one set of parentheses; separate each block of information with a semicolon.

Conceptions of personal space vary among cultures (Morris, 1977; Worchel & Cooper, 1983).

9. Citing a Personal Communication, including E-Mail—Modified APA

Telephone calls, personal letters, interviews, and e-mail messages are “personal communications” that your readers do not have access to. Acknowledge personal communications in parenthetical references, but do not include them in your References list. Because it is impossible to know whether e-mail was written by the person who claims to have written it, be careful about using e-mail as source material.

Recalling his first summer at camp, one person said, “The proximity of 12 other kids made me--an only child with older, quiet parents--frantic for the entire eight weeks” (A. Weiss, personal communication, January 12, 1996).

10. Citing an Internet Web Site—Modified APA

If you find it necessary to cite material on a web site that is not in a hard copy form, you should use the following method of citation. Please remember it is best to avoid using web site citations if at all possible.

When the lunar eclipse was seen in the sky, people were believed to have hallucinations (http://astroglide.com/~jumpshout, accessed on January 14, 2005).

Guidelines for compiling a Modified APA-style Literature Cited Page

In APA documentation, in-text citations must be supported by a list of the sources referred to in your paper. Include in this Literature Cited Page the sources that you quote from, paraphrase, or summarize.

- TITLE

Literature Cited
- **PLACEMENT OF LIST**

Start a new page numbered sequentially with the rest of the paper.

- **CONTENTS AND FORMAT**

Include all quoted, paraphrased, or summarized sources in your paper. Start each entry on a new line, and double-space all lines between citations, but single-space within citations.

First line of each entry full width, other lines indented. This “hanging indent” style makes source names and dates prominent. Type the first line of each entry full width, and indent an entry’s subsequent lines to seven spaces (or one tab).


- **ARRANGEMENT OF ENTRIES**

Alphabetize by author’s last name. If no author is named, alphabetize by the first significant word (not *A, An, or The*) in the title of the work.

- **AUTHORS’ NAMES**

Use last names, first initials, and middle initials if any. Reverse the order for all author names, and use an ampersand (&) between the second-to-last and last authors: Mills, J. F., & Holahan, R. H.

Give names in the order in which they appear on the work (title page of book, usually under title of article or other printed work). Use a comma between the first author’s last name and first initial and after each complete author name except the last. After the last author name, use a period.

- **DATE**

Put date information after name information, enclosing it in parentheses and using a period followed by one space after the closing parenthesis.

For books, articles in journals that have volume numbers, and many other print and nonprint sources, the year of publication or production is the date to use. For articles from most magazines and newspapers, use the year followed by a comma and then the exact date appearing on the issue.

- **CAPITALIZATION OF TITLES**

For books, capitalize the first word, the first word after a colon between a title and subtitle, and any proper nouns. For names of journals and proceedings of meetings, capitalize the first word, all nouns and adjectives, and any other words five or more letters long.

- **REFERENCE ENTRIES: BOOKS BY AN AUTHOR**

If you cite a work by an author of a book, the following formatting will be appropriate in your literature cited page.

**REFERENCE ENTRIES: A CHAPTER IN A BOOK OF COMPiled AUTHORS**

If you cite a work by an author of a book, the following formatting will be appropriate in your literature cited page.


**REFERENCE ENTRIES: INTERNET SOURCES WITHOUT KNOWN AUTHORS**

If you cite a work by an author of a book, the following formatting will be appropriate in your literature cited page. Please remember it is best to avoid using web site citations if at all possible.


**REFERENCE ENTRIES: INTERNET SOURCES WITH KNOWN AUTHORS**

If you cite a work by an author of a book, the following formatting will be appropriate in your literature cited page. Please remember it is best to avoid using web site citations if at all possible.