

What Are You Trying to Cite in APA Style?

You can do it. These tips can help.



Academic Journal Article

The format for citing an article written by a single author is as follows:

Last name, First initial. (Year). Article title. *Journal Name*, Volume(Issue), Page range.
DOI* or URL

*DOI stands for digital object identifier. It is a number assigned to most (but not all) books and articles. You can find it on the first page of the article near the author's name or in the header or footer of proceeding pages.

Let's try an example using the following article by Jean LaTerz.

Author: Jean LaTerz

Year: 2017

Article Title: The MSW thesis: a rich and scholarly tradition at Smith College School for Social Work

Journal name: Smith College Studies in Social Work
Volume: 87
Issue: 4
Page range: 281-294
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/00377317.2017.1372258>

And so, a citation looks like this:

LaTerz, J. (2017). The MSW Thesis: A Rich and Scholarly Tradition at Smith College School for Social Work. *Smith College Studies in Social Work (Taylor & Francis Ltd)*, 87(4), 281–294. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00377317.2017.1372258>

Note: it is important to end citations with a period. The period comes before the DOI/URL.

Another note: APA citations longer than one line have a hanging indent of .5 inches. You can adjust your indent manually on Google Drive at the top of the page below the toolbar.

For articles with two authors

- Articles written by two authors follow the same “Last name, First initial” format.
- Separate the two authors’ names with an ampersand (&).
- An article written by Sarah Whalen and Julianne Justice would read in the citation as: Whalen, S. & Justice, J.
- How do I know which author goes first?
- Follow the order in which the authors are listed on the article.

For articles with between three and twenty authors

- List author names in the same format, in order in which they are written in the article, separated by a comma
- E.g. Whalen, S., Justice, J., Telingator, W.
- The final author’s name preceded by an ampersand (&).
- E.g. Whalen, S., Justice, J., Telingator, W. & Winter, K.

Book

The basic form for books is as follows:

Last name, First initial. (Year). *Book title*. Publisher. URL or DOI,* if available

*DOI stands for digital object identifier. It is a number assigned to most (but not all) articles and e-books. You can find it near the bibliographic information.

Let's try a simple example using a book with a single author, *Man's Search for Meaning* by Viktor Frankl.

Last name: Frankl

First Initial: V

Title: *Man's Search for Meaning*

Year: 1959

Publisher: Beacon Press

DOI: [10.4236/ahs.2015.44023](https://doi.org/10.4236/ahs.2015.44023)

And so, our citation looks like this:

Frankl, V. (1959). *Man's Search for Meaning*. Beacon Press. [10.4236/ahs.2015.44023](https://doi.org/10.4236/ahs.2015.44023)

How do I cite *Inside Out, Outside In*?

Inside Out, Outside In is an edited collection. For the purposes of the APA, this means you must cite each chapter or essay individually rather than the collection as a whole.

You can do this in the following format: Last name of chapter author, First initial. (Year). Title of chapter. In Editor first initial. Last name (Ed. or Eds.), *Book title* (pp. page range). Publisher. DOI if available

Pretty complex. This is what that looks like in practice.

Below is the bibliographic citation for *Inside Out Outside In's* introduction. Notice that the first two authors (and editors) are separated by commas and the last two are separated by an ampersand. This is standard in APA.

Another note: (Ed. or Eds.) stands for editor/editors

Berzoff, J., Flanagan, L. M., & Hertz, P. (2008). Inside out, outside in: An introduction. In J. Berzoff, L. M. Flanagan, & P. Hertz (Eds.), *Inside out and outside in: Psychodynamic clinical theory and psychopathology in contemporary multicultural contexts* (2nd ed., pp. 1–15). Jason Aronson.

The DSM

The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM-V), although frequently accessed in electronic form, is a book. The proper citation is as follows:

American Psychiatric Association. (2013). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders* (5th ed.). <https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.books.9780890425596>

If citing a specific entry, such as major depressive disorder, the citation is as follows:

American Psychiatric Association. (2013). Major depressive disorder. In *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders* (5th ed.). <https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.books.9780890425596>

A Class Lecture

A lecture at Smith SSW that was given during class and is not accessible to the public is considered “personal communication.” Because a reader cannot find these sources themselves, APA states that there is no utility in including them in a reference list. Instead, cite personal communication in-text in the following format:

(S. Smith, personal communication, July 25, 2024)

Other forms of personal communication include private social media content, private emails and texts, and unrecorded performances and speeches.

In-Text Citations

APA style has a two-part reference system. The more comprehensive reference for readers interested in learning about your sources is located at the end of your paper in the references section. APA also requires a shorter, corresponding reference guiding readers to the complete text information. This in-text citation follows the “author-date citation system.”

How does it work?

Let's say you have paraphrased information from this article:

LaTerz, J. (2017). The MSW Thesis: A Rich and Scholarly Tradition at Smith College School for Social Work. *Smith College Studies in Social Work (Taylor & Francis Ltd)*, 87(4), 281–294. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00377317.2017.1372258>

Over 5,000 Smith SSW students have completed thesis projects; all can be accessed from Neilson Library.

You now need to cite it at the end of your sentence.

A proper citation looks like this:

Over 5,000 Smith SSW students have completed thesis projects; all can be accessed from Neilson Library (LaTerz, 2017).

A citation from a specific passage would read as follows:

According to LaTerz (2017), “A student who was otherwise progressing through the clinical or course based aspects of the program could fail out for unsatisfactory progress in the thesis” (p. 291).