

APA Format: References



This handout is based on the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, Seventh Edition, 2019.

The APA Manual classifies sources as belonging to the following groups:

- Textual works (including books, periodicals, reports, presentations, reviews, blog posts, grants, and conference presentations)
- Audiovisual media (including films, TV series and episodes, videos, radio interviews, podcasts, songs, albums, artwork, and photos)
- Online media (webpages, websites, and social media)
- Data sets, software, and tests
- Legal references

Each of these groups can be further divided into categories and types.

The four general elements used to create bibliographic citations are as follows:

- **Author**—This can be one individual author or several, a corporate author, or an organization. Depending on the source, author may also refer to artists, directors, speakers, etc.
- **Date**—Depending on the source, this may be a year or a more exact date (including year, month, and day).
- **Title**—This is the name of the immediate work you are referencing. Depending on the type of source you are using, this title may appear in italics.
- **Source information**—Depending on the source, this may include the title of the larger publication from which your source is taken, volume or issue information for a periodical, page numbers, a publisher, production company, geographic location, a digital object identifier (DOI), and a uniform resource locator (URL).

General Guidelines

- Start **References** on a new page, continuing the page number; center the word **References** in bold at the top.
- Include the sources cited in the text, except for entire websites, personal interviews, emails, and other non-retrievable sources. These exceptions are cited in-text only.
- **Alphabetize** by the first word of the reference (the last name of the first author, the first significant word of a corporate author, or the first significant word of the title if the work has no author). Use **initials only** for author's first and middle names. Do not include credentials like Reverend, PhD, or LCSW.
- Present DOIs as web addresses. APA prefers DOIs over URL; visit <https://www.doi.org/> to confirm a DOI.
- Give readers the easiest way to find a source. For example, even though you used the print version of a source, give its DOI when possible. If the source has a print equivalent, but was retrieved from a website or database, include all relevant publication information including original page numbers, if indicated.
- Use a hanging indent: The first line of each reference aligns with the left margin; subsequent lines are indented.
- Use **periods** between elements and at the citation end (*except* after website URLs and DOIs).
- **Do not use quotation marks** around article titles. Titles of stand-alone works (such as books, reports, journals, albums, and webpages) are italicized.
- Use **commas** between the names of multiple authors and the **ampersand** (&) before the last author's name.
- Capitalize only the **first word** (and the first word after a colon) of the titles of articles and books.
- Capitalize all **proper names** and **periodical titles**.
- Maintain **double-spacing** (examples that follow are single-spaced only to conserve space).
- If you need to break a URL between lines, break before most punctuation (e.g., before a period or a slash).
- It is typically not necessary to include the name of a database from which you retrieved an article. (*Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* is an exception.)
- Include retrieval dates only if the source material is meant to change over time (e.g., wikis).
- Cite each webpage or new document within a website separately.

For more specific information, see the APA manual, 7th edition. Copies can be found in the Writing Center, 250 Zahnow.

Online Media

	Author	Date	Title	Source
Webpage on a website by a group author	Group Name.	(Year, Month Day.)	<i>Title of work.</i>	URL
	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020, February 16). <i>Strategies for optimizing the supply of N95 respirators.</i> https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/respirator-supply-strategies.html			
Webpage or article from an online news site	Last Name, F. I. M. I.	(Year, Month Day.)	<i>Title of work.</i>	Site Name. URL (with retrieval date if applicable)
	Feng, Z. (2020, January 27). <i>Chinese diasporas stockpile surgical masks, fret over infection.</i> BBC News. https://www.bbc.com/news/51245373 Holland, O. (2020, January 24). <i>Mona Lisa for \$60K? The curious market for Old Masters replicas.</i> CNN. https://www.cnn.com/style/article/old-masters-replicas-sothebys/index.html			
Tweet	Author Last Name, F. I. M. I. [@username].	(Year, Month Day).	Post content (first 20 words) [Description of visuals].	Site Name. Retrieved Month Day, Year, from URL (if applicable)
	SVSU Writing Center [@SVSUWCenter]. (2019, December 8). <i>Hey, Cardinals, just a reminder that the Writing Center will be open Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 11 am-6 pm (regular #SVSU #SVSUCardinals [Image attached] [Tweet].</i> Twitter. https://twitter.com/SVSUWCenter/status/1203848902593658885 Transcribe The American Soldier [@transcribeTAS]. (2020, January 16). <i>I am fighting now for equal rights for all and the right to vote. #wwii #theamericansoldier [Image attached] [Tweet].</i> Twitter. https://twitter.com/transcribeTAS/status/1217839486509502464?s=19			
Facebook, Tumblr, LinkedIn post	Author Last Name, F. I. M. I.	(Year, Month Day).	Content of post (first 20 words) [Description of visuals].	Site Name. URL
	Name of Group.	Association of Professional and Technical Writers. (2019, November 21). <i>As the semester comes to an end, APTW wants to keep you accountable! [Image attached].</i> Facebook. https://www.facebook.com/associationofprofessionalandtechnicalwriters/photos/a.542238185895693/2569147026538122/?type=3&theater		

For more information on online media sources and more examples, see the APA Manual, pp. 348–352.

Textual Works

	Author	Date	Title	Source
Book	Last Name, F. I. M. I.	(Year).	<i>Book title in italics.</i>	Publisher. DOI or URL (if applicable)
	<p>American Nurses Association. (2015). <i>Nursing: Scope and standards of practice</i> (3rd ed.). Nursebooks.org. https://www.iupuc.edu/health-sciences/files/Nursing-ScopeStandards-3E.pdf</p> <p>Becker, G. (2007). <i>Economic theory</i> (2nd ed.). Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781351327688</p> <p>Porth, C. (2005). <i>Pathophysiology: Concepts of altered health states</i>. Lippincott, Williams and Wilkins.</p>			
Edited book	Last Name, F. I. M. I. (Ed.)	(Year).	<i>Book title in italics.</i>	Publisher. DOI or URL (if applicable)
	<p>Oliver, R., & Sanderson, G. (Eds.). (1985). <i>The Cambridge history of Africa</i>. Cambridge University Press. https://doi.org/10.1017/CHOL9780521228039</p>			
Selection from edited work	Last Name, F. I. M. I.	(Year).	Title of the chapter (no quotation marks).	In F. I. M. I. Last Name (Ed.), <i>Title of the book</i> (pp. #–#). Publisher Name. DOI or URL (if applicable)
	<p>Enslin, P., & Pendlebury, S. (2002). Representation, identification and trust: Towards an ethics of educational research. In M. McNamee & D. Bridges (Eds.), <i>The ethics of educational research</i> (pp. 361–370). Blackwell Publishing.</p> <p>Starre, A. (2017). Jonathan Safran Foer, <i>Extremely loud & incredibly close</i> (2005). In T. Muller (Ed.), <i>Handbook of the American novel of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries</i> (pp. 401–413). De Gruyter. https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110422429</p>			
Journal article	Last Name, F. I. M. I., & Last Name, F. I. M. I.	(Year).	Title of the article (no quotation marks).	<i>Journal Name</i> , #(#), #–#. DOI or URL (if applicable)
	<p>Degner, H., Wojciechowski, K., & Giroux, C. (2015). Opening closed doors: A rationale for creating a safe space for tutors struggling with mental health concerns or illnesses. <i>Praxis</i>, 13(1), 27–37. http://praxisuwc.com/links-page-131</p> <p>Gulicovski, J., Cerovic, L., Milonjic, S., & Popovic, I. (2008). Adsorption of itaconic acid from aqueous solutions onto alumina. <i>Journal of the Serbian Chemistry Society</i>, 73(8-9), 825–834. https://doi.org/10.2298/JSC0809835P</p> <p>Gupta, A. K., & Govindajaran, V. (2000). Managing global expansion: A conceptual framework. <i>Business Horizons</i>, 43(2), 45–54. https://doi.org/10.1016/S0007-6813(00)88560-2</p>			
Magazine article	Last Name, F. I.	(Year, Month Day).	Title of the article (no quotation marks).	<i>Magazine Name</i> , #(#), #–#. DOI or URL (if applicable)
	<p>Goldstone, B. (2017, May). A prayer's chance: The scandal of mental health in West Africa. <i>Harper's</i>, 334(2004), 41–53.</p> <p>Leavitt, C. (2018, March–April). The novel I buried three times. <i>Poets & Writers</i>. https://www.pw.org/content/marchapril_2018</p>			

Newspaper article	Last Name, F. I. M. I.	(Year, Month Day).	Title of the article (no quotation marks).	<i>Newspaper Name</i> , #– #. DOI or URL (if applicable)
	<p>Miller, A. (1984, October 14). <i>The face in the mirror: Anti-Semitism then and now.</i> <i>The New York Times</i>, BR3.</p> <p>Riley, L. (2020, January 27). <i>Kellogg’s commits to reducing widely used herbicides in supply chain.</i> <i>The Washington Post</i>. https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2020/01/27/kelloggs-quietly-commits-reducing-widely-used-herbicide-supply-chain-only-farmers-didnt-know-about-it/</p>			
Governmental or organizational report	Last Name, F. I. M. I. Name of Group.	(Year, Month Day).	<i>Title of the report</i> (Report No. #) [Description].	Publisher Name. DOI or URL (if applicable)
	<p>American Cancer Society Action Network. (2019). <i>Empowering advocates: Leading the fight to conquer cancer</i> (Report No. 766018). https://www.fightcancer.org/sites/default/files/National%20Documents/2018-ACS-CAN-Advocacy-Accomplishments-Report.pdf</p> <p>Lusher, J. (2003). <i>Standard review plan for the review of a reclamation plan for mill tailings sites under Title II of the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act of 1978</i> (Report No. NUREG-1620, Rev. 1). Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. https://www.nrc.gov/docs/ML0322/ML032250190.pdf</p>			

For more information on textual sources and more examples, see the APA Manual, pp. 316–347.

Audiovisual Works

	Author	Date	Title	Source
Film/TV series	Last Name, F. I. M. I. (Director).	(Year).	<i>Title of work</i> [Description].	Publisher Name. DOI or URL (if applicable)
	<p>Forster, M. (Director). (2007). <i>The kite runner</i> [Film]. Dreamworks Video.</p> <p>Melfi, T. (Director). (2016). <i>Hidden figures</i> [Film]. 20th Century Fox.</p>			
Episode from a TV series	Last Name, F. I. M. I. (Director), & Last Name, F. I. M. I. (Writer).	(Year, Month Day).	Title of episode (Season #, Episode #) [Description]. In F. I. M. I. Last Name (Executive Producer), <i>Title of series.</i>	Production Company.
	<p>Schnabel, M. (Writer), & Carroll, R. (Director). (2019, November 12). <i>No vacancy</i> (Season 17, Episode 7) [TV series episode]. In C. F. Johnson, D. P. Bellisario, S. Brennan, G. Glasberg, G. Schenck, F. Cardea, M. Harmon, & M. Horowitz (Executive Producers), <i>NCIS</i>. Belisarius Productions; Paramount Network Television; CBS Paramount Network Television; CBS Television Studios; thinkfilm.</p>			
Album	Artist Last Name, F. I. M. I.	(Year).	<i>Title of album</i> [Description].	Label. URL (if applicable)
	<p>Astley, R. (1987). <i>Whenever you need somebody</i> [Album]. RCA Records.</p> <p>The Tragically Hip. (1992). <i>Fully completely</i> [Album]. MCA Records.</p>			

Song	Artist Last Name, F. I. M. I.	(Year).	Title of song [Description].	On <i>Title of album</i> . Label. URL (if applicable)
	Astley, R. (1987). <i>Never gonna give you up</i> [Song]. On <i>Whenever you need somebody</i> . RCA Records.			
TEDTalk	Speaker Last Name, F. I. M. I.	(Year, Month Day).	<i>Title of talk</i> [Description].	Producer. URL
	Duckworth, A. L. (2013, April). <i>Grit: The power of passion and perseverance</i> [Video]. TED Conferences. https://www.ted.com/talks/angela_lee_duckworth_grit_the_power_of_passion_and_perseverance?language=en TED. (2016, April 6). <i>Tim Urban: Inside the mind of a master procrastinator</i> [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=arj7oStGLkU			
YouTube video	Creator Last Name, F. I. M. I.	(Year, Month Day).	<i>Title of work</i> [Description].	Producer. URL
	Nightshooter Web Development. (2016, December 28). <i>How to use Javascript editor in Bootstrap Studio</i> [Video]. YouTube. https://youtu.be/JPpAfHHH5j4			
Class slideshow stored on a learning management system	Instructor Last Name, F. I. M. I.	(Year, Month Day).	Description of slideshow [Description].	Site Name. URL for login
	Thiel, J. (2014, December 1). <i>Into the 21st century: Potholes on the road to Michigan's future</i> [PowerPoint slides]. Kirtland Instructure. https://auth.kirtland.edu/cas/login?service=https%3A%2F%2Fkirtland.instructure.com%2Flogin%2Fcas Trump, E. (2018). <i>Thomas Hobbes</i> [PowerPoint Slides]. Saginaw Valley State University Canvas. https://canvas.svsu.edu/login/dap			
Lecture notes	Instructor Last Name, F. I. M. I.	(Year, Month Day).	[Description].	Departmental and Institutional Affiliation. URL if applicable
	Giesler, M. A. (2019, September 29). [Lecture notes on homeless populations]. Department of Social Work, Saginaw Valley State University.			
Artwork	Artist Last Name, F. I. M. I.	(Year).	<i>Title of work</i> [Description].	Museum Name, Museum Location. URL (if applicable)
	Corot, C. (1863). <i>Big tree</i> [Painting]. Saginaw Art Museum, Saginaw, MI, United States. https://www.saginawartmuseum.org/wp-content/uploads/French-1951_5_2-Corot-bigtree.jpg Fredericks, M. (1950). <i>Ann Arbor eagle</i> [Sculpture]. Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum, University Center, MI, United States.			

For more information on audiovisual works and more examples, see the APA Manual, pp. 341–347.

For information on data sets, software, and tests, see the APA Manual, pp. 337–341.

For information on legal references, see the APA Manual, pp. 355–368.

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- Association of Professional and Technical Writers. (2019, November 21). *As the semester comes to an end, APTW wants to keep you accountable!* [Image attached]. Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/associationofprofessionalandtechnicalwriters/photos/a.542238185895693/2569147026538122/?type=3&theater>
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- Degner, H., Wojciechowski, K., & Giroux, C. (2015). Opening closed doors: A rationale for creating a safe space for tutors struggling with mental health concerns or illnesses. *Praxis, 13*(1), 27-37. <http://praxisuwc.com/links-page-131>
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- Fredericks, M. (1950). *Ann Arbor eagle* [Sculpture]. Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum, University Center, MI, United States.
- Giesler, M. A. (2019, September 29). [Lecture notes on homeless populations]. Department of Social Work, Saginaw Valley State University.
- Goldstone, B. (2017, May). A prayer's chance: The scandal of mental health in West Africa. *Harper's, 334*(2004), 41–53.
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- Schnabel, M. (Writer), & Carroll, R. (Director). (2019, November 12). No vacancy (Season 17, Episode 7) [TV series episode]. In C. F. Johnson, D. P. Bellisario, S. Brennan, G. Glasberg, G. Schenck, F. Cardea, M. Harmon, & M. Horowitz (Executive Producers), *NCIS*. Belisarius Productions; Paramount Network Television; CBS Paramount Network Television; CBS Television Studios; thinkfilm.
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- Trump, E. (2018). *Thomas Hobbes* [PowerPoint Slides]. Saginaw Valley State University Canvas. <https://canvas.svsu.edu/login/dap>