We’re here to get you started writing that health, sociology, psychology, or education paper—or really, any other subject that requires APA. APA may seem impossible with its complicated formatting and different form of citation. But you’re in luck. This outline will break it down, so you’ll be writing in no time. The first tutorial will show you the basics of formatting an APA paper, and the second tutorial will give you the specifics you’ll need to start citing in APA.

So, you’ve gone through the first tutorial, “APA – Formatting a Paper.” You learned about formatting the title page and text of a document, looked at the sample paper, and watched the video from Purdue Owl. Hopefully you also did the exercise to get some feedback on your grasp of APA formatting.

Now, let’s look at citation—arguably the most important part of any citation style. Citation is important as it can affect your credibility as a student-researcher, the strength of your argument, and, ultimately, your grade. Using good sources almost always part of writing in the social sciences. Incorrectly citing or failing to cite can have disastrous consequences for an assignment, a class, or even your college career.
Knocking out In-Text Citation

Here are some basic examples of in-text citations:

Basic format:

Smith (2010) states “drugs kill” (p. 5).

If you state the author within the sentence, then show the year of publication in parentheses directly after the author’s name. At the end of the sentence, give the page number of the quote you used. In APA, no page numbers are needed for summaries and paraphrases.

Multiple Authors:

Smith, Schultz, Snyder and Becket (2003) agreed that “smoking was a leading cause of cancer” (p. 132).

Authors with the same name:

Research completed by A. Snyder (2000) showed...

Use the initial of the first name to clarify which author you are referring to.

Two or more works in the same parentheses:

Studies indicated that... harmful (Cooke et al., 2004: Schultz et al., 2010).

Organize them in the same order in which their findings appear in the sentence.

No page number:

Becket and Scott decided “that.... future generation” (para. 3).

When no page number is indicated in your original source, state the title and paragraph number as shown above.
The purpose of the reference page is basically so you can present your sources in an easily recognizable, organized way. It also allows the reader to access your sources clearly.

- Your entries should be in alphabetical order, with a hanging indent.
- Be aware of punctuation, it’s placed specifically.
- Also be careful with situation, based on your sources, you will enter it differently, so take note of source type (book, journal, blog, etc.) and its details (Author? Editors? Translated?).

**Single Author:**


**Multiple Works, Same Author:**


Note: the titles of the journal; and its volume number are italicized. Also consider that the title of a journal is not quoted. For two works by the same author, order in your bib is determined by date.

**An Article from an Online Periodical with a DOI Assigned:**


Note: the DOI shown above is the most recent version, of the article presents both this version and the old, used the updated method.

**A Non-periodical, Webpage or Electronic Document:**


Note: If you link to multiple parts of the webpage, link the homepage in the entry. Also note that the URL is not hyperlinked, make sure to avoid that in your reference page.
Playing at APA:  
Now You Try it…

- Links you’ll want to know before you get started:
  - Purdue OWL APA guide
  - Cite Source
  - Diana Hacker
    - Note: The running head on the Diana Hacker sample papers and Purdue Owl sample papers are incorrect; for the correct example go to the Purdue Owl's corrected APA sample paper.
    - [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HpAOi8-WUY4&list=PL8F43A67F38DE3D5D](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HpAOi8-WUY4&list=PL8F43A67F38DE3D5D)

The Activity:

1) Go to SUNY Potsdam's Academic Honor Page.
2) Under heading C, use the Basic Standards of Academic Integrity, numbers 1, 2, and 3, in three separate sentences, to accurately show a quote or paraphrase, using APA in-text citation.
3) Then once you've complete step 2, create a reference page for your citations.

- For more examples of how your reference list should look, pop to Cite Source.
- For a step-by-step reference page formatting video, check out Purdue OWL: APA Formatting: Reference List Basics