American Psychological Association Referencing Style

APA style describes rules for the preparation of manuscripts for writers and students in psychology. It is also used in disciplines such as Sociology, Occupational Therapy, Social Work and Nursing.

For a comprehensive guide to the APA Style please refer to: American Psychological Association. Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (6th ed.), on which this handout is based.

In-Text Citations
- When citing references within the text of an assignment, use the author’s name followed by the date of publication in brackets. Citations of two or more works in the same parentheses should be listed in the order they appear in the reference list (i.e., alphabetically, then chronologically), e.g. (Major, 2004; White, 1990).
- Page numbers must be given when quoting directly from another source and double quotation marks placed around the quote.
- When a source has three, four, or five authors, include all authors the first time the source is cited. When that source is cited again, the first author’s surname and “et al.” are used. When a source has six or more authors, the first author’s surname and “et al.” are used every time the source is cited (including the first time).

How to Create a Reference List
- A reference list only includes books, articles etc. that are cited in the text. This is in contrast to a bibliography which is a list of sources used for background or further reading.
- The reference list is arranged alphabetically by author, editor or first significant word of title (where there is no author).
- List up to seven authors. If there are more than seven, list the first six, followed by … and then the last author’s name.
- The title of the book and title of the journal, including volume number, must be in italics (not the title of journal article).
- Only indicate the issue number if the journal is paginated by issue, i.e. if each issue begins with page 1.
- The second and subsequent lines of the reference must be indented.

It is very important that you check the assignment guide for your Department as some details, e.g. punctuation, may vary from the guidelines in this document.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Books</th>
<th>In-Text Example</th>
<th>Reference List Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Article—no author</td>
<td>It was confirmed that an outbreak occurred in London (S. Savieri, personal communication, April 24, 1999).</td>
<td>Not included in reference list as they cannot be traced by the reader.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Electronic Journals**

- Online journal article
  - Teenage motherhood was positively correlated with a childhood experience of parental separation/divorce (Quinlivan, Tan, Steele, & Black, 2004).
  - doi: 10.15038797.

**World Wide Web**

- Document on WWW
  - “I’m not sure how many street level practitioners read cluster and factor analysis studies” (Alterio, 2011).

**Secondary sources**

- Journal article (when citing an author who has been cited in the article in hand)
  - “…origins of neuralgia” (Carini & Hogan, as cited in Patton, 2002, p.2154).

**Other sources**

- Personal communication, e-mail and discussion lists with no web archive
  - It was confirmed that an outbreak occurred in London (S. Savieri, personal communication, April 24, 1999).