Using ASA Format

Creating a reference page using the American Sociological Association guidelines


In-text citations

ASA parenthetical in-text citations include the last name of the author(s) and the year of publication. Examples:

When author’s name is mentioned in the text:
   As Kelly noted (2008) . . .

When authors’ names are not mentioned in text, and for two authors:
   . . . the study concluded (Bursick and Grasmick 1993).

Include page numbers only for direct quotes or when referring to a specific passage:
   The social construction of ideas was a key theme in the teaching of a number of instructors of sociology (Persell, Pfeiffer, and Syed 2008:117).

For more than three authors, or after the first citation of a three-author work:
   . . . preferred to engage students in research (Persell et al. 2008).

References

At the end of a research paper, you need to provide a list of the works you’ve cited. This should be done on a separate page with the word References left-justified at the top, and the citations listed below in alphabetical order, double-spaced, with a hanging indent. If there is more than one entry by an author in the same year, then distinguish them by adding a letter after the year.

Below are examples of some of the most commonly cited sources. For more information, check the Style Guide, visit the library reference desk, or consult Purdue’s OWL website at http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/583/1/ (use the menu on the left to navigate). You may also contact the Metro State Writing Center at (651) 793-1460 or centerfolk@metrostate.edu.
Model for a book citation

Author1 Lastname, Firstname, Author2 Firstname Lastname, and Author3 Firstname Lastname. Year. *Name of Publication*. Location of publisher: Publisher’s Name.

Examples of book citations


**NOTE: State abbreviation is not required if the location of the city is well-known, or when the state is embedded in the publisher name.**

Model for a citation of a chapter or article from a book

Author1 Lastname, Firstname, Author2 Firstname Lastname, and Author3 Firstname Lastname. Year. “Title of article.” Pp. xxx-xx in *Title of Publication*, edited by F. M. Editor1, F. M. Editor2, and F. M. Editor3. Location of publisher: Publisher’s Name.

Examples of citations of chapters or articles from books


Model for a journal article citation

Author1 Lastname, Firstname, Author2 Firstname Lastname, and Author3 Firstname Lastname. Year. “Title of Article.” Title of Publication Volume Number(Issue Number):page number range.

**NOTE: For periodicals published in both online and print form, which includes most articles available in library databases, follow the basic periodical pattern, above.**

**NOTE: For periodicals published in online form only, append the DOI, retrieval date and URL, or database information (with accession number, if available) as in the examples below. You may drop page number information if it is not available in the online form.**

Examples of journal article citations


Audiovisual resources


(http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wX5II-BJ8hl).

**Website citation examples**

**NOTE: For unsigned articles, use the authoring organization or publication in the place of the author. If there is none, place the title first.**

**NOTE: Include publisher name and city if the document is retrieved from an institution with a known location.**


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