A Brief Overview of APA Reference Style

At Clinical Lactation, we use APA style, as codified in the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th Edition* (APA, 2010). Below is a brief summary of APA reference style for the most common types of references.

Citations in Text of a Manuscript

Citations in the text of your manuscript should include the author’s last name(s) and the year of publication, both enclosed in parentheses.

(Wolf, 2006).

When you are including a direct quotation, include the specific page number.


If the author(s) names are mentioned in the same sentence, include only the year of publication. If the year of publication is mentioned in the text, include only the author’s name in the citation.

Two Authors

For works by two authors, always include both author names.

(Anderson & Bjorn, 2003)

As Anderson and Bjorn (2003) illustrated in their recent study
Three or More Authors

When there are three or more authors, include the name of the first author and “et al.”
(This is a variation from APA Style, but we’ve found it easier for both authors and editors, and it saves space.)

(Anderson et al., 2003)

E-mail or other personal communication (cite in text only)

(A. Monterey, personal communication, September 28, 2001)

Reference List

All citations in the text of the document, except personal communications, should also be included on the Reference List. The Reference List is the last section of the manuscript, with the word “References” at the top of the section. Entries in the Reference List should be alphabetized, with a hanging indent of five spaces. If you have many references, we strongly recommend the use of EndNote or similar software.

Examples of Types of Citations

Journal Article


This article is also available online, so it could also be referenced the following way.


Book


Chapter in an Edited Book

Electronic Articles

In the 6th edition of the APA manual, electronic articles no longer need include a retrieval date, but they must now include a DOI (digital object identifier). The DOI system was developed by an international group of publishers to have a persistent way of identifying and managing digital information. If no DOI is available, the URL of the site the article was retrieved from must be included.


For more detailed information about referencing all types of materials, we recommend that you refer to either the Publication Manual or the Concise Rules of APA Style.

Reference