

FAQs for APA Reference Pages

What is a reference page?

Just like it sounds, a reference page is a place for you to list all of the sources you used in your essay. It always comes at the end of the document.

Why do I need them?

Most importantly, reference pages will prevent you from being accused of plagiarism. They give credit to the authors of the works that you use, and they help your reader to recognize and find your research.

When do I need them?

You'll need a reference page for almost every paper that you write. If you use *any* secondary sources or outside information, you'll need a reference page to avoid plagiarism.

How do I do them?

Ah. Here's the big question. Reference pages can be confusing at first, but, once you know the basic rules, they're not too scary. We'll take a look at a sample reference page on the next page and how to create references for some of the most common sources on the following pages.

What is a DOI?

DOI stands for digital object identifier. With the explosion of online publishing and online access to print articles, the DOI system was created in order to identify articles and allow others to find them more easily as they are more stable than URLs. Most journals now print the DOI on the first page of the articles.

References

- Le Roux, M.C., & Kemp, R. (2009). Effect of a companion dog on depression and anxiety levels of elderly residents in long-term care facilities. *Psychogeriatrics*, 9, 23-26. doi: 10.1111/j.1479-8301.2009.00268.x
- Shotton, M.A. (1989). *Computer addiction? A study of computer dependency*. London, England: Taylor & Francis.
- Sillick, T.J., & Schutte, N.S. (2006). Emotional intelligence and self-esteem mediate between perceived early parental love and adult happiness. *E-Journal of Applied Psychology*, 2(2), 38-48. Retrieved from <http://ojs.lib.swin.edu.au/index.php/ejap>

Citations should be ordered alphabetically and should have a hanging indent

All formatting from the paper will remain for the reference page: 1" margins, Time New Roman 12pt font, double-spaced.

The Sources

Each different kind of source has its own template for its reference entry. A reference for a journal article will look different than a reference for a magazine. While there are too many kinds of sources to include in one handout, we'll look at two of the most common here: journal articles and books.

Journal Article

The reference should include:

- ___ The author(s)' last name and initials. If your author's name is John Paul Smith, it will appear in your reference as "Smith, J.P."
- ___ The year that the journal was published in parentheses.
- ___ The title of the article. Capitalize only the first word of the title and the first word of the subtitle.
- ___ The title of the journal. This will follow normal capitalization rules for titles, and it should be in italics.
- ___ The volume number of the article, also in italics.
- ___ The page range of the article.
- ___ The doi (digital object identifier).
- ___ If you retrieved your article online and doi is unavailable, include the url of the journal's home page.

Here are some examples:

*****Make sure to note placement of commas and periods!*****

Author, A.A., Author, B.B., & Author, C.C. (year). Title of article. *Title of Periodical*, xx, pp-pp.

doi: xx.xxxxxxxxxx

Le Roux, M.C., & Kemp, R. (2009). Effect of a companion dog on depression and anxiety levels of elderly residents in long-term care facilities. *Psychogeriatrics*, 9, 23-26. doi:

10.1111/j.1479-8301.2009.00268.x

Sillick, T.J., & Schutte, N.S. (2006). Emotional intelligence and self-esteem mediate between perceived early parental love and adult happiness. *E-Journal of Applied Psychology*, 2(2), 38-48. Retrieved from <http://ojs.lib.swin.edu.au/index.php/ejap>

Book

The reference should include:

- ___ The author(s)' last name and initials. If your author's name is John Paul Smith, it will appear in your reference as "Smith, J.P."
- ___ The year that the book was published in parentheses.
- ___ The title of the book in italics. Capitalize only the first word of the title and the first word of the subtitle.
- ___ The city of publication and the state (written in postal abbreviation) or, if it is a non-U.S. city, the country. Ex: "New York, NY" or "London, England"
- ___ The name of the publisher.
- ___ The book may have a DOI. Include it if it does.

Here are some examples:

*****Make sure to note placement of commas and periods!*****

Author, A.A. (1999). *Title of work*. Location: Publisher.

Shotton, M.A. (1989). *Computer addiction? A study of computer dependency*. London, England:
Taylor & Francis.

All information for this handout is taken from the sixth edition of the APA manual. Hopefully, this handout gives you a basic idea of what reference pages are and how to do them. However, it is in no way an exhaustive list of all of the rules of APA reference pages. For questions about online sources, sources with multiple authors, or anything else, we encourage you to take a look at the APA handbook or come visit us in the Writing Center.