Sociology 1A06

APA Citation Style

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Need Help? Just Ask!
Agenda

1. what is APA style & why do I need to use it?
2. the reference list
3. in-text citations
1. What is APA style & why do I need to use it?
What is APA style?

• developed by social and behavioural scientists to **standardize scientific writing**

• uniform **style helps us scan articles quickly** for key points and findings

• encourages **full disclosure** of essential information
Why do I have to cite my sources?

• **to give credit to the authors** of the works that you are using

• **to provide additional sources for further study**, and put your interpretations into context

• failure to properly cite your sources constitutes **plagiarism** and is a violation of moral and professional ethics
When do I cite?

• **cite the sources that have influenced your work**, even when you are paraphrasing

• **to avoid plagiarism**, take careful **notes** and keep track of all sources to collect the info you need to cite them properly
2. The reference list
Reference list

- **purpose**: to help readers find the sources you used
- **position**: at the end of the paper
- **order of entries**: alphabetized by the author/first author’s surname
Reference List

• **style**: hanging indent, double spaced
• **required**: if you cite any sources in your paper
• every source cited in your paper must appear on the reference list **AND**
• every entry in your reference list must be cited in your paper
Reference list elements

• author name(s)
• publication date
• title of the work
• publication data
Reference list elements

Journal articles: formatting

- **article title**: sentence case

Social capital: Its origins and applications in modern sociology.

Capitalize the first word following a colon or period in the title.
Journal articles: formatting

• journal title: title case


Italicize journal title and volume number, but not the page numbers
Journal articles: formatting

- include the **issue number** in parentheses if each issue's pagination begins with page 1

*Annual Review of Sociology, 24*(1), 1-24.*

When listing multiple authors, use an **ampersand (*)&** in the reference list rather than “and.”
Article: 7 or more authors


List the first 6 authors, then a comma and “et al.”
Online articles

• include volume number and inclusive page numbers if available
• include the article DOI if available; if not, cite the home page URL of the journal
Digital Object Identifier (DOI)

- new requirement with APA 6th ed.
- “A DOI is a unique alphanumerical string to identify content and provide a persistent link to its location on the Internet”
- analogous to an ISBN
DOI location

• typically located on the first page of the electronic journal article, near the copyright notice
Stirring Dangerous Waters: Dilemmas for Critical Participatory Research with Young People
Audrey M. Dentith, Lynda Measor and Michael P. O'Malley

_Sociology_ 2009; 43; 158
DOI: 10.1177/0038038508099103

The online version of this article can be found at:
http://soc.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/43/1/158
DOI location

• may also be found on the publisher or vendor landing page for the article
Oligarchization, formalization, adaptation? Linking Social and EU Enlargement Research

Authors: Stefanie Bailor, Robin Hertz, Dirk Leuffen (Show Biographies)

DOI: 10.1080/13501760802482063

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Formats available: HTML (English); PDF (English)
You have: ACCESS
Article Requests: Order Reprints; Request Permissions
View Article: View Article (PDF); View Article (HTML)
Reference list & DOIs

- If a source has a DOI, *always* use it, no matter what type of source it is!
  - **Periodical (print OR online):**
  - **Online periodical with no DOI:**
Book: single author

3. In-text citations
When do you cite your sources in your paper?

- **When you**
  - *refer to an idea* you drew from something you read
  - *quote* from something you read or heard
  - want to give the reader some places to look for *additional information*
Paraphrasing

Scott (1992) identified...

Several researchers (Anthony, 1990; Gregory & Jacobs, 1985; Polk et al., 1980) reported...

Or at the end of a sentence paraphrased from another work (Scott, 1992).
Citing while paraphrasing

- List the last names of all authors the first time you cite them, unless there are more than 5.
- If there are more than five, or you are citing the paper of 3 or more authors for a second or more time, list last name of first author, followed by “et al.,” and the date.
Examples

**first time:**
Scott, Williamson, and Schaffer (1990) reported that...

**every time after:**
Scott et al. (1990) reported that...

**first time and every time:**
Scott and Williamson (1990) reported that...

6 or more authors, use “et al.,” first time and every time.
Citing while quoting

• quotation marks, author last name(s), date, **page numbers** or **paragraph numbers** (for online sources with no page numbers).

• “...the research findings clearly indicate support for the hypotheses” (Douglass, 1986, p. 55).
Warning

• Keep quotations to a minimum (less than 3 per paper, generally speaking)

• Don’t forget the quotation marks and page numbers (or paragraph numbers), or you will be guilty of plagiarism!
Useful Resources

• From APA:
  – APA Style home page: http://www.apastyle.org/

• Other:
  – The OWL at Purdue: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/
  – McMaster Library style guide page: http://library.mcmaster.ca/guides/#citation-and-style-guides
Need Help? Just Ask!

- **Visit**
  - Research Help Desk
  - Mills 2nd Floor
- **Call**
  - x22533
- **Email**
  - library@mcmaster.ca
- **Chat**
  - MSN: library@mcmaster.ca
  - AOL/Yahoo!: maclibraries
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- APAStyle.org
- OWL Purdue: APA Style Guide
- Purdue University Libraries
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