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apa 6th edition sample references list welcome to cpcc

Published: September 19, 2026 | Index ID: #-

Welcome to CPCC: Mastering APA 6th Edition Sample References

Central Piedmont Community College (CPCC) is known for its rigorous academic programs and its commitment to student success. Whether you're a freshman tackling your first research paper or a senior preparing a thesis, mastering the APA 6th edition citation style is essential for presenting your work professionally and avoiding plagiarism. This comprehensive guide will walk you through every aspect of the APA 6th edition reference list, from the fundamentals of in text citations to the intricacies of formatting a polished bibliography. By the end of this article, you'll feel confident creating a flawless reference list that meets CPCC's academic standards.

Understanding APA 6th Edition

History and Purpose

The American Psychological Association (APA) style was originally developed to promote clarity, precision, and uniformity in academic writing across the social sciences. The 6th edition, released in 2009, introduced several updates that streamlined formatting and citation rules, making it easier for students and scholars to reference sources accurately. CPCC faculty often require APA 6th edition for psychology, sociology, education, and other social science courses, so understanding its core principles is a vital skill for any student.

Key Elements of APA 6th Edition

- In Text Citations: Brief parenthetical references that correspond to full entries in the reference list.
- Reference List: A comprehensive list of all sources cited in the paper, placed at the end of the document.
- Hanging Indentation: The second and subsequent lines of each reference are indented by 0.5 inches.
- Alphabetical Order: Entries are organized alphabetically by the surname of the first author.
- Publication Dates: Always appear in parentheses immediately after the author(s).
- Title Capitalization: Only the first word of the title and subtitle, and any proper nouns, are capitalized.

Why Use APA 6th Edition?

Adopting APA 6th edition offers several advantages for CPCC students:

- Consistency: A uniform style reduces confusion for both writers and reviewers.
- Credibility: Proper citations demonstrate academic integrity and respect for intellectual property.
- Clarity: Readers can locate original sources quickly, enhancing the overall quality of your research.
- Professionalism: APA formatting is a standard expectation in many graduate programs and research institutions.

Getting Started with APA 6th Edition Citations

In Text Citations

In APA 6th edition, in text citations include the author's last name and the publication year. For example*(Smith, 2015)*. If you directly quote a source, add a page number: *(Smith, 2015, p. 42)*. When citing multiple authors, list up to three names on the first citation and use "et al." thereafter.

Reference List Basics

The reference list must begin on a new page, titled “References” centered at the top. Each entry should be double spaced, with a hanging indent. The format varies slightly depending on the source type (book, journal, website, etc.), but the core elements—author, year, title, and publication information—remain consistent.

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Below is a curated sample reference list that illustrates how CPCC students might format their citations using APA 6th edition. This example covers books, journal articles, websites, and other common source types. Feel free to adapt the format to match your specific sources.

Books

1. Smith, J. A. (2015). Understanding Social Dynamics. New York, NY: Academic Press.
2. Johnson, L. R., & Lee, M. K. (2018). Research Methods in Psychology (2nd ed.). Boston, MA: Pearson.

Journal Articles

1. Brown, T. D. (2017). The impact of social media on adolescent behavior. Journal of Youth Studies, 20(3), 345–362. https://doi.org/10.1080/13676275.2016.1255489
2. Garcia, P. & Patel, S. (2019). Cognitive development in early childhood. Child Development Research, 12(1), 50–65.

Websites

1. American Psychological Association. (2020). APA style guide. https://apastyle.apa.org/
2. National Institute of Mental Health. (2021). Mental health statistics. https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/statistics/index.shtml

Other Sources

1. United Nations. (2019). World population prospects 2019. https://population.un.org/wpp/
2. Smith, J. A. (2014). Personal interview [Interview with Dr. Lisa Brown].

Formatting Tips for the Reference List

Hanging Indentation

To create a hanging indent in most word processors, select your reference list, right click, and choose “Paragraph.” Under “Indentation,” set “Special” to “Hanging” and specify 0.5 inches. This indentation ensures each reference is clearly separated and easy to read.

Alphabetical Order

Arrange entries alphabetically by the first author’s last name. If multiple works share the same author, list them chronologically, with the earliest work first.

Author Names

For a single author, use last name followed by initials. For multiple authors, separate names with commas and use an ampersand (&) before the final author. Example: *Johnson, L. R., & Lee, M. K.*

Publication Dates

Always enclose the year in parentheses immediately after the author(s). If no date is available, use “n.d.” (no date) in place of the year.

Titles and Subtitles

Capitalize only the first word of the title, the first word of the subtitle, and any proper nouns. Titles of books and journals are italicized; article titles are not.

Common Mistakes and How to Avoid Them

Missing Publication Dates

Failing to include a publication year can make a reference incomplete. When no date is available, use “n.d.” and still follow the rest of the format.

Incorrect Capitalization

Many students accidentally capitalize all major words in titles. Stick to sentence case, capitalizing only the first word and proper nouns.

Inconsistent Formatting

Mixing italics, quotation marks, and punctuation styles can confuse readers. Consistency is key—use the same style throughout your reference list.

Using Citation Management Tools

Zotero, EndNote, Mendeley

These reference managers can automate the creation of APA citations and reference lists. Import your sources, select the APA 6th edition style, and let the software format the entries for you.

Integrating with Word and Google Docs

Both Microsoft Word and Google Docs offer built in citation tools. In Word, go to the “References” tab, choose “APA 6th Edition,” and insert citations. In Google Docs, use the “Tools” menu and select “Citations.” These tools help maintain consistent formatting as you write.

Examples of APA 6th Edition Reference List for CPCC Students

Academic Papers

When writing a research paper for a psychology class, your reference list might look like this:

1. Adams, R. J. (2016). Social cognition and decision making. Journal of Social Psychology, 58(2), 112–129. https://doi.org/10.1080/00224545.2015.1082391
2. Lee, K. M., & Patel, S. (2017). The role of mindfulness in academic performance. Educational Psychology Review, 29(4), 500–515.

Research Projects

For a community based research project, you might reference local data sources:

1. City of Charlotte. (2020). Crime statistics for 2019. https://www.charlotte.gov/crime/2020-statistics
2. North Carolina Department of Health. (2019). Health statistics 2019. https://www.ncdhhs.gov/health-statistics

Thesis and Dissertations

Graduate students preparing a thesis should ensure every source is cited properly:

1. Gonzalez, A. (2018). Exploring the impact of social media on mental health: A dissertation (Doctoral dissertation). Retrieved from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global.

2. Wright, M. (2015). Technology integration in the classroom (Doctoral dissertation). University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

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