GENERAL

# apa referencing style 6th edition

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## Introduction

When writing academic papers, researchers, and students must follow a clear and consistent style for citing sources. One of the most widely used citation styles in the social and behavioral sciences is the American Psychological Association (APA) style. The APA 6th edition, released in 2010, has been the standard for many years, and many institutions still require its use for theses, dissertations, journal articles, and conference papers. This comprehensive guide will walk you through every aspect of the APA 6th edition referencing style, from formatting the paper to crafting accurate in-text citations and building a polished reference list. Whether you are a seasoned scholar or a first time writer, this resource will help you master the nuances of APA 6th edition and produce professional, error free documents.

## What Is APA Referencing Style?

### History of APA Style

The APA style originated in the early 20th century as a set of guidelines for psychologists to standardize the presentation of research. Over time, it evolved to accommodate a broader range of disciplines, including education, nursing, and business. The 6th edition, published in 2010, was the first major update in over a decade and introduced several significant changes such as the use of the singular “they” and a revised approach to electronic sources.

### Why Use APA?

APA style offers a clear, concise framework that ensures readers can easily locate and verify sources. It emphasizes the date of publication, reflecting the importance of recent research in the behavioral sciences. Consistent formatting also reduces the cognitive load for readers, allowing them to focus on the content rather than the structure.

## Overview of APA 6th Edition

### Key Features

- Author–date citation system – In-text citations include the author’s surname and publication year.
- Emphasis on publication date – The year is central to locating the source.
- Use of a reference list – A comprehensive list of all cited works appears at the end of the paper.
- Formatting guidelines – Clear rules for margins, font, spacing, and headings.

### Differences from APA 7th Edition

While the 7th edition offers updates such as inclusive language guidelines and new citation formats for online sources, the 6th edition remains in use at many institutions. Key distinctions include:

- APA 6th: “The author’s last name and the year of publication” in parentheses.
- APA 7th: “Author and year” with a comma, e.g., (Smith, 2020).
- APA 6th: “p.” before single page numbers in direct quotes.
- APA 7th: “pp.” for page ranges.

# APA 6th Edition Formatting Guidelines

### General Format

All APA 6th edition papers follow a uniform structure:

1. Use 1  inch margins on all sides.
2. Choose a readable font (e.g., Times New Roman 12  pt).
3. Set double spacing throughout, including the reference list.
4. Include a running head (shortened title) in the header of each page, followed by the page number.

### Title Page

The title page should contain:

- Full title of the paper (centered, bold).
- Author's name and institutional affiliation.
- Student number or other identifying information, if required.
- Course name, instructor's name, and due date (if applicable).

### Abstract

Follow the title page with an abstract on a new page. The abstract should be a single paragraph, 150–250 words, summarizing the main points of the study. Do not indent the first line of the abstract; the entire paragraph should be double  spaced.

### Main Body

The main body follows the abstract and begins on a new page. Use headings to organize the text into sections. APA 6th edition allows up to five levels of headings, but for most papers two or three levels suffice.

### References Page

Begin the reference list on a new page titled "References" (centered, bold). Entries should be alphabetized by the first author's surname and formatted with a hanging indent (first line flush left, subsequent lines indented 0.5 inches). Each entry must include the author(s), publication year, title, and source details.

## In-Text Citations

### Parenthetical Citations

When you refer to a source without mentioning the author in the narrative, place the citation in parentheses:

### Narrative Citations

If the author's name appears in the sentence, include the year in parentheses immediately after the name:

### Multiple Authors

- Two authors: list both surnames separated by an ampersand (e.g., Smith & Jones, 2018).
- Three or more authors: list the first author followed by "et al." (e.g., Smith et al., 2019).

### Sources with No Author

Use the title (or a shortened form) in place of the author:

### Secondary Sources

When citing a source referenced within another work, mention both in the narrative and include a note in the reference list about the secondary source:

### Direct Quotations

Include the author, year, and page number. Use double quotation marks and enclose the citation in parentheses:

## Reference List Entries

### Books

Format: Author, A. A. (Year). *Title of book*. Publisher.

### Journal Articles

Format: Author, A. A., & Author, B. B. (Year). Title of article. *Journal Name*, *Volume*(Issue), page range. DOI (if available).

### Online Sources

Include the URL or DOI at the end. If no DOI, provide the direct URL.

- Webpage: Author, A. A. (Year, Month Day). Title of page. Site name. URL
- Online article: Author, A. A. (Year). Title of article. Site name. URL

### Government Documents

Format: Agency. (Year). *Title of report* (Report No. xxx). Publisher. URL (if online).

### Other Media

Include movies, podcasts, and interviews using the appropriate format, e.g.,

## Common Pitfalls and How to Avoid Them

### Misplaced Commas and Periods

APA 6th places commas inside parentheses but not after the closing parenthesis. For example: (Brown & Smith, 2015), not (Brown & Smith, 2015).

### Incorrect Author Names

Always use the surname followed by initials. For example, “Smith, J. D.” If an author uses a middle name or initial, include it.

### Wrong Publication Dates

Check the source’s publication date carefully. If the source has a “n.d.” (no date), use that in the citation.

### Duplicate Entries

Each source should appear only once in the reference list. If you have multiple works by the same author in the same year, differentiate them with letters (e.g., 2015a, 2015b).

## APA 6th Edition Examples

### Full Example of a Paper

Below is a simplified outline of a typical APA 6th edition research paper:

1. Title page
2. Abstract
3. Introduction
4. Method

5. Results
6. Discussion
7. References

### Sample Reference List

Here's a sample reference list incorporating various source types:

## Baca Juga (Artikel Terkait)

- **advanced engineering electromagnetics solution manual edition hardcover by balanis constantine a published by wiley**
  URL: http://blueesystems.com/advanced-engineering-electromagnetics-solution-manual-edition-hardcover-by-balanis-constantine-a-published-by-wiley.pdf
- **advanced engineering electromagnetics solutions manual**
  URL: http://blueesystems.com/advanced-engineering-electromagnetics-solutions-manual.pdf
- **advanced engineering electromagnetics wiley 1989 grading**
  URL: http://blueesystems.com/advanced-engineering-electromagnetics-wiley-1989-grading.pdf
- **advanced engineering fluid mechanics by biswas**
  URL: http://blueesystems.com/advanced-engineering-fluid-mechanics-by-biswas.pdf

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