APA STYLE

Library & Learning Services
Sheridan College
APA Style

APA Style is the American Psychological Association’s guidelines on all aspects of the writing process.

- Establishes uniformity and consistency in your writing and referencing.
- See our [APA Style Library Guide](#) for most common rules.

Today’s lesson will focus on **Citing your Sources** in proper APA format.
Why Cite?

To prove you’ve used credible sources

To give credit where credit is due

To clarify what is your own work vs. someone else’s

To avoid plagiarism
What Must I Cite?

You must provide in-text citations and a list of references for any information that is:

- quoted,
- paraphrased, or
- summarized
- A representation of someone else’s work
  (graphs, diagrams, images, artwork, etc.)

Note: You do not need to reference common knowledge.
Plagiarism: Causes, Consequences, and Tips for Prevention

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Plagiarism is a growing concern in academic institutions across the world. A recent study examined 40 million student papers and found that "one-third of all content matched in the study is from social networks, content sharing or question-and-answer sites where users contribute and share content" (Turnitin, n.d., p.3). As digital sources are becoming more abundant, it is easier for students to cut and paste large sections of text without attributing the original source. This paper will address the causes of plagiarism, its consequences, and tips for helping students prevent plagiarism.

References

In-Text Citations: The Basics

• An indication within your report that your information comes from another source.

• Usually the author’s last name, year and a page reference in parenthesis are required wherever you incorporate another’s words, facts, or ideas.

• Must match a work in your References list.

• A typical in-text citation looks like this:

  Excavations in the Eastern Aleutian Islands in Alaska reveal that fairly complex hearth features were in use in semi-subterranean structures as early as the Neoglacial period (4700-2500 years ago) (Rogers, 2012, p. 100). Some of the unique features of these hearths included…
References Page: The Basics

- A list of all the sources of information you cited in your report
- Appears on a separate page at the end of your report
- Different citation information is required for different types of sources, but all roughly follow this format:


- The list is organized by Author (last name)
- Use a “hanging indent” so that the second line of each work is indented by $\frac{1}{2}$"

Video Demonstration
Remember!

Your citations are only as good as the quality of your content:

✓ Make sure you have used appropriate academic sources
✓ Make sure you have quoted, summarized, or paraphrased carefully & responsibly (staying true to original authors intent)
✓ Make sure you have demonstrated that you have understood and analyzed the information you have included in the report
  ▪ provide your own arguments and conclusions
  ▪ use your own words (summarize, paraphrase), rather than quote
  ▪ never, never, never “cut and paste” whole segments of websites, articles, etc.
✓ Be selective!! Only the best, most relevant information should make it into your report to support your analysis
Need More Info?

In Print:
• Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6 ed.
  BF76.7 .P83 2010 (Reference)

Online:
• From the Library homepage, go to APA, MLA, etc.