APA Basics

Northampton Community College
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Examples taken from the
and the NCC Library APA Handout.
APA format is a form of parenthetical documentation most used in science and social science classes, such as psychology, sociology, education, and business.

APA format is maintained by the American Psychological Association.

The complete list of citation rules are published in their Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th edition.

You can view a copy of the manual at either NCC Library!
Citing Your Sources

• Tells the reader (your instructor) where you found your information
• Is required by most instructors at NCC
• Gives credit back to the original authors

Not Citing Your Sources

• Is plagiarism
• Is a form of academic dishonesty
• Can bring severe penalties, including:
  o Failing your assignment
  o Failing your course
  o Failing out of NCC
As You Research

• Keep careful notes of your sources

• Make printouts or copies of articles or book chapters

• Make sure you collect publication information for each source:
  o Author(s)
  o Chapter title or Article title
  o Book title or Journal/Magazine title
  o Date of publication
  o Publisher and place of publication
  o Page numbers
When to Cite a Source in Your Research Paper

• Always when you quote directly

• When the information is not common knowledge

• Whenever you paraphrase or summarize an author’s words

Try to avoid saying, “Well, I already know a lot about this subject. I don’t need any sources.” That may be true, but the point of a research paper is to gather knowledge from subject experts: people who have been trained in a certain field, worked in a certain field, and have advanced degrees (master’s or doctorate). You’re still learning!
In-Text Citation

• Refers reader to sources on the References Page.

• Called “author-date” method

  • Example:
    Chronic fatigue syndrome is a disease with hidden symptoms (Hacking, 1998).

References Page

• The References Page is the last part of your research paper.

• It is an alphabetical list of the sources used as in-text citations in the body of your paper.

  • Example:
How to Format Each Section of Your APA Research Paper
Individual Differences in Bimodal Processing

Sally Student

Instructor Smith

May 07, 2016
Abstract

The differences in semantic recall among students with either an analytic or a holistic cognitive style were investigated. The cognitive style was determined by analyzing responses…
INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES IN BIMODAL PROCESSING

A growing body of research has indicated that variations in the electrical activity from the brain, as well as the spine, have a direct correlation on how emotions are processed (Smith, 2015). And so on…
For More Help

- Light blue APA handout from the Library Reference Desk (also available online at the Library website)
- *Publication Manual of the APA, 6th edition*
- Learning Center Writing Tutors
- View other APA tutorials:
  - APA In-Text Citation
  - APA References

Call the Library Reference Desk at 610-861-5359 or email the librarian team at askthelibrarian@northampton.edu