

This guide summarises the basic rules for the American Psychological Association (APA) citation style and is not intended as a complete source. For more details, refer to FedCite.

In-text

An in-text citation includes the author's surname (family name) and the year the resource was published. The citation is placed either at the end of the sentence in round brackets and before the full stop, or within a sentence.

Template: (Author, Year) or Author (Year)

Example

- ... which is confirmed by one study (Barrett, 2027).
- ... the study by Barrett (2027) confirmed these results.

Quotes

When you quote an author (i.e., use their exact words), you must put the quote in double quotation marks and provide the page number where you sourced the information.

- It was described as "a stunning victory" (Rawson, 2028, p. 15).
- Rawson (2028) described it as "a stunning victory" (p. 15).

If there is no page number when quoting, insert a paragraph number (para. x).

Two Authors (Author & Author, Year)

If there are two authors, use an ampersand (&) between the names when you place the citation within round brackets, or use 'and' if the citation is within your text.

- ... (Roberts & Davies, 2026) OR Roberts and Davies (2026) ...

Three or More Authors (Author et al., Year)

In your in-text citations, name the first author followed by 'et al.' (Latin abbreviation meaning 'and others') in *all* mentions. The full list of authors is stated in your reference list at the end.

- ... (Ziajka et al., 2027) OR Ziajka et al. (2027) ...

Group Authors (Government/Organisation, Year)

- ... (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2025) OR Australian Bureau of Statistics (2025) ...

The first time you refer to an organisation, write its full name followed by the acronym in brackets; thereafter, the acronym alone may be used.

- (World Health Organization [WHO], 2032) OR World Health Organization (WHO) (2032).
- Thereafter, ... (WHO, 2032) OR WHO (2032) ...

Two Sources, One Idea (Author, Year; Author, Year)

Two or more works by different authors within the same brackets are separated with a semicolon (;).

- Studies by Albon (2028); Camacho (2029); and Ziajka (2027) indicate that ...
- ... along with other studies (Albon, 2028; Camacho, 2029; Ziajka, 2027).



Reference list

Basic rules and formatting

- Begin the list on a new page at the end of your work
- Give the list the central heading 'References'
- Use double line-spacing and a hanging indent
- Include one entry for every source you have cited in the text
- Arrange all entries in alphabetical order

A basic APA reference list entry includes the following parts:

AUTHOR + (YEAR) + TITLE + PUBLISHER INFORMATION + DOI or URL

BOOK

Basic, print: Robinson, A. (2024). *If you go*. Affirm Press.

Chapter from edited collection: Dillard, J. P. (2020). Currents in the study of persuasion. In M. B. Oliver, A. A. Raney, & J. Bryant (Eds.), *Media effects: Advances in theory and research* (4th ed., pp. 115–129). Routledge.

Library e-book: Arnavas, F. (2024). *Uncanny fairy tales: Hybrid wonders in the mirror*. Taylor & Francis. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003403449>

JOURNAL ARTICLE

Calma, A., & Davies, M. (2021). Critical thinking in business education: Current outlook and future prospects. *Studies in Higher Education*, 46(11), 2279–2295. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03075079.2020.1716324>

WEBSITE

General: Stemsrud, K. (2023, November 23). *Diabetes: What you need to know - and do*. Mayo Clinic Health System. <https://www.mayoclinichealthsystem.org/hometown-health/speaking-of-health/diabetes-what-you-need-to-know-and-do>

Organisation: Federation University Australia. (2026). *5.3 Referencing* [Online lesson]. Moodle. <https://moodle.federation.edu.au/mod/book/view.php?id=8499471>

Example References list:

References

- Ambrosy, J. & Allen-Cheng, S. (2023). A teachers guide to outdoor education curriculum: Victorian edition. *Federation University*. <https://oercollective.caul.edu.au/teachers-guide-outdoor-ed-vic>
- Britton, D. & Polman, R. (2022). Measuring sportspeople's regulation of their own emotions via social processes and interactions: Validating the interpersonal emotion questionnaire. *International Journal of Sport and Exercise Psychology*, 21(5), 857–868. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1612197X.2022.2089197>
- Bozkurt, A. (2024a). GenAI et al.: Cocreation, authorship, ownership, academic ethics and integrity in a time of generative AI. *Open Praxis*, 16(1), 1–10. <https://doi.org/10.55982/openpraxis.16.1.654>
- Bozkurt, A. (2024b). Tell me your prompts and I will make them true: The alchemy of prompt engineering and generative AI. *Open Praxis*, 16(2), 111–118. <https://doi.org/10.55982/openpraxis.16.2.661>
- Frost-Camilleri, L. (Host) (2023, February 24). Sharon Davis – Educational placements. (No. 5) [Audio podcast episode]. In *Feducate – Speaking of education....* Federation University. <https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/feducate/episodes/Sharon-Davis---Educational-Placements-e1v7utr>

Related resources

- FedCite
- APA7 Referencing Checklist



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