APA style is the required citation style used in all South University courses.

What is APA and why use it?

APA stands for American Psychological Association, and is a writing style to ensure a professional standard of writing by its members, primarily coming from fields in the social sciences, healthcare, and education. APA is the style used in these fields across universities in the U.S.

Part of being good students and researchers is to give credit to those whose ideas and work help to inform our own. As writers of academic work, we draw from and build on the work of previous scholars and professionals. When we present our writing, we want to show our readers that we are knowledgeable about our topics and that we have informed ourselves by seeking out opinions written by experts on these topics. When we document our sources, we share with our readers the research we have done to develop our balanced and reasoned positions that we present in our own writing.

To demonstrate our credibility as writers and professionals, we use APA style—an agreed upon set of rules—to lead our readers to the original source material that we have used in preparing our work. These rules comprise the formal conventions for writing that are respected in our professional fields and help us to communicate professionally with colleagues and peers.

APA has also been inferred as the “Author/date” system because there is a focus on both the author and the date the article or study was published. This focus on the date is important since things change rapidly in our fields of study.

For an explanation of usage of APA Style, refer to the South University APA style guide available within your online class. To access it, launch your online course. In the orange navigation panel, on the left hand side, click the “South University Policies and Guidelines” link. Then click the “Using APA Standards in your Coursework” link. Under “Using APA Standards in your Coursework,” click the “click here” link.

Here are some of the most commonly used elements of APA Style (please note that all citations on your reference page should be double spaced with a hanging indent on the second line):

Citing SUO Lectures:
FORMAT:
South University Online. (2012). Course ID: Title of course in sentence casing: Week X: Specific lecture not capitalized. Retrieved from myeclassonline.com
EXAMPLE:
SAMPLE QUOTE:
"Feminism begins by emphasizing that gender and sex are different" (South University Online, 2010, para. 2).

Citing your Online Digital Textbook:
FORMAT:
EXAMPLE:
SAMPLE QUOTE:
"Not only do businesses provide the products and services that people enjoy, they also provide the jobs that people need" (Kelly & McGowen, 2010, p. 4).

Note: Depending on your publication, page numbers may not be available; therefore, include paragraph numbers instead.

Citing Online Scholarly Journal Article without DOI:
FORMAT:
Author, A. A. (year, month and day). Title of article. Title of Periodical, Volume (issue number if available), xx-xx. Analyze, manage and share information in more ways than ever.
EXAMPLE:
SAMPLE QUOTE:
"Whitley and Kost (1999) uncovered . . . evidence that under certain conditions participants may be more inclined to make harsher judgments about cheaters" (as cited in Feinberg, 2009, p. 464).
Formatting your Manuscript

The following are included on the title page:

- Multiple authors
- Each name should appear on a separate line
- Institutional affiliation
- Title
- Author’s name
- First name, middle initial, last name

Citing Online Scholarly Journal Article with a DOI:

FORMAT:

Author, A.A. (year, month and day). Title of article. Title of Periodical, Volume (issue number if available). doi: xx.xxxx/x.xxx-xxxx.xxx.x

EXAMPLE:


SAMPLE QUOTE:

Scholars recently argued, “Clean air, water, and food as well as safer workplaces profoundly improved quantity and quality of life” (Jackson & Malloy, 2011, p. 34).

Web Article, with No Author

This section is important because you may be asked to research articles related to current events, using a general web search (non-library based). To understand how to cite articles without authors listed, consider both examples:

Citing an Entity

If an author is not listed, cite the organization or entity that authored the article. For example, organizations can include the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, etc.

FORMAT:

Entity or Organization. (Year, Date). Title of article. Retrieved from URL

EXAMPLE:


SAMPLE QUOTE:

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2011), “We focus on improving car and booster seat and seat belt use and reducing impaired driving, and helping groups at risk: child passengers, teen drivers, and older adult drivers” (para. 2).

Citing All Other Unauthored Articles

In some cases, the author and entity cannot be determined, therefore, place the title of the article within the author’s slot:

FORMAT:

Title of article. (Year). Retrieved from URL

EXAMPLE:


SAMPLE QUOTE:

“The child, who was recovering at home, may have contracted the virus while visiting Auckland, where the virus originated” (NZ measles outbreak spreads, 2011, para. 2).
RESOURCES FOR UNDERSTANDING APA STYLE

The Basics of APA Style® (an online tutorial)
This tutorial is designed for those who have no previous knowledge of APA Style®. It shows users how to structure and format their work, recommends ways to reduce bias in language, identifies how to avoid charges of plagiarism, shows how to cite references in text, and provides selected reference examples.

What’s New in the Sixth Edition
This tutorial provides an overview of key changes in the sixth edition of the Publication Manual, beginning with three goals that guided the revision and ending with a detailed chapter-by-chapter list of new and expanded content.

APA Style Quick Reference

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Saturday: 9am - 5pm ET
Sunday: CLOSED

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