



**NAMIIBIA UNIVERSITY**  
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**Department of Library Services**

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## **BRIEF GUIDE TO THE APA**

Based on the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (7<sup>th</sup> ed.). (2020)

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 In-Text Citations**

In-text citations contain abbreviated information about a source, i.e.

- Quotations: **Surname, Year, Page no.**
- Paraphrases: **Surname, Year**

#### **1.2 Reference List Citations**

For every source cited “in-text”, the Reference List must contain fuller bibliographic details which will assist readers to identify, find and access the item you have cited.

##### **1.2.1 Reference List**

The reference list, which is arranged in alphabetical order at the end of a work, contains all sources cited in your work.

##### **1.2.2 Bibliography**

A bibliography, on the other hand, contains all sources cited in your work, plus sources consulted. The APA does not normally use bibliographies, so it states that you should “choose references judiciously and include only the sources that you used in the research and preparation of the article. APA journals and other journals using APA style generally require reference lists, not bibliographies” (APA, 2010, p. 180).

## 2. IN-TEXT CITATIONS

**Note:** Author rules for in-text citations are applicable to **all formats** of information.

### 2.1 One (1) Author

**Note:** You can cite information taken from an item with one author as follows:

**e.g.**

According to Lubans (2010) “when you move toward self-management, towards empowerment, some staff members will want to know who is in charge” (p. 29).

**e.g.**

“When you move toward self-management, toward empowerment, some staff members will want to know who is in charge” (Lubans, 2010, p. 29).

### 2.2 Two (2) Authors

**2.2.1** If the citation is part of the signal phrase (outside the parentheses), separate the two names with the full word “**and**”

**e.g.**

Oshima and Hogue (2007) explain that the conclusion to an essay is “a summary or review of the main points discussed in the body” (p. 148).

**2.2.2** If the citation is in parentheses, separate the two names with an ampersand “**&**”

**e.g.**

The conclusion to an essay is “a summary or review of the main points discussed in the body” (Oshima & Hogue, 2007, p. 48)

### 2.3 Three or More (3+) Authors

Enter the first named author followed by the term “**et al.**”

**e.g.**

Löfström et al. (2015) found that “groups did not agree on the extent to which it is their role to teach academic integrity” (p. 441).

**Or**

One study revealed that “groups did not agree on the extent to which it is their role to teach academic integrity” (Löfström et al., 2015, p. 441).

## 2.4 Items without Authors

2.4.1 Enter whole items e.g. books, periodicals, brochures, reports etc. in *Title Case and italics*

e.g.  
*Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*

2.4.2 Enter parts of items e.g. chapters, articles, web pages in Title Case, enclosed in double quotation marks

e.g.  
"Avoiding Plagiarism"

## 2.5 Indirect Citations/Secondary Sources

**Note:** Name the original work in-text and the secondary source in the Reference List e.g.  
Cook and Campbell (as cited in McMillan & Schumacher, 2001)

**Note:** McMillan & Schumacher are cited in the Reference List, not Cooke and Campbell.

## 2.6 Group Authors

If a group author is well known, you can abbreviate the name, though there is no obligation to do this.

e.g. Namibia University of Science and Technology can be abbreviated as (NUST, 2019)

**Note:** At the first mention of the group citation in a document, use the full name without abbreviation, and only abbreviate with subsequent citations.

### 3. REFERENCE LIST

**Note:** Each in-text citation must have a Reference List citation

**Note:** Reference List Author/Editor rules are the same for all formats

#### 3.1 BOOKS

##### 3.1.1 One (1) Author or Editor

**Method:**

Surname, Initials. (Ed.). (Year). *Title of work in italics and in sentence case:*

*Subtitle if any in italics and in sentence case* (-- ed.). Publisher.

**e.g.**

Maudlin, T. (2011). *Quantum non-locality and relativity: Metaphysical intimations of modern physics* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). Wiley-Blackwell.

**e.g.**

Pietschmann, P. (Ed.). (2011). *Principles of osteoimmunology: Molecular mechanisms and clinical applications*. Springer.

##### 3.1.2 Two (2) Authors or Editors

**Note:** Enter both names separated by a comma and an ampersand (&). For 2 or more editors, use the plural abbreviation “Eds.” in parentheses

**Method:**

Surname, Initials, & Surname, Initials. (Eds.). Year). *Title in italics and in*

*sentence case: Subtitle in italics and in sentence case* (-- ed.).

Publisher.

**e.g.**

Suzuki, H., Dastur, & Maruyama, H. (2010). *Eco cities: Ecological cities as economic cities*. World Bank.

##### 3.1.3 Three to Twenty (3-20) Authors/Editors

**Note:** If an item has three to twenty authors or editors, list all of them in the Reference List, and separate the last two names with a comma and an ampersand (&)

**e.g.**

Mail, J., Gill, D., Jones, S., Claw, K. W., Li, G., & Ogre, A. L.

### 3.1.4 Twenty-one or More (21+) Authors

**Note:** If an item has twenty-one or more authors or editors, list the first nineteen, separating each with a comma; then insert an ellipsis (i.e. 3 spaced dots), followed by the surname and initials of the last named author/editor

**e.g.**

Ioannidis, N. M., Rothstein, J.H., Pejaver, V., Middha, S., McDonnell, S.K., Baheti, S., Musolf, A., Li, Q., Holzinger, E., Karyadi, D., Cannon-Albright, L.A., Teerlink, C.C., Stanford, J. L., Isaacs, W. B., Xu, J., Cooney, K. A., Lange, E.M., Schleutker, J., Carpten, J. D., ... Weiva, S.

### 3.1.5 Items without Authors

**Note:** Start the citation with the Title of the item, followed by the Edition and Year of publication

**Method:**

*Title in italics and sentence case: Subtitle in italics and sentence case* (-- ed.). (Year).  
Publisher.

**e.g.**

*Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary* (11<sup>th</sup> ed.). (2005). Merriam-Webster.

## 3.2 BOOK CHAPTERS

**Note:** In-text, cite the Surname of the Author of the chapter.

**Method:**

Surname, Initial. (Year). Title of chapter in sentence case: Subtitle of chapter in sentence case. In Initial. Surname (Ed.), *Title of book in sentence case and italics: Subtitle of book in sentence case and italics* (pp. xx-xx). Publisher.

**e.g.**

Feetham, M. (2006). The subject specialist in higher education: A review of the literature. In P. Dale, M. Holland, & M. Matthews (Eds.), *Subject librarians: Engaging with the learning and teaching environment* (pp. 3-17). Ashgate.

### 3.3 JOURNAL ARTICLES

#### 3.3.1 Printed Journal Articles

**Method:**

Surname, Initials. (Year). Title of article in sentence case: Subtitle in sentence case. *Title of Journal in Italics and in Title Case*, Vol. number in italics(issue no), pages.

**e.g.**

Comfort, S. (2008). The hidden life of things: Commodification, imperialism and environmental feminism in Arundhati Roy's „The God of small things“. *Postcolonial Text*, 4(4), 1-27.

#### 3.3.2 Electronic Journal Articles with DOI

**Note:** Use the Digital Object Identifier (DOI), which is a permanent link.

**Method:**

Surname, Initials. (Year). Title of article in sentence case: Subtitle in sentence case. *Journal Title in Italics and Title Case*, Volume in italics(issue), pages. <https://doi.org/10.xxxx/xxxxxxxxxx>

**e.g.**

Daly, F., Teague, P., & Kitchen, P. (2003). Exploring the role of internal communication during organizational change. *Corporate Communication: An International Journal*, 8(3), 153-162. <https://doi.org/10.1108/13536280310487612>

#### 3.3.3 Electronic Journal Articles without DOI, but with a non-database URL

**Note:** Use the URL of the *journal home page* instead of the DOI

**Note:** You do not need to add the retrieval date.

**Note:** If the URL of the article is from an academic database, do not provide a URL

**Method:**

Surname, Initials. (Year). Title of article in sentence case: Subtitle in sentence case. *Journal Title in Italics and Title Case*, Volume No in italics(issue), pages. URL of journal home page

**e.g.**

Muirhead, B. (2002). Integrating critical thinking into online classes. *USDLA Journal*, 16(11). <http://www.usdla.org>

### 3.4 NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: REFERENCE LIST

#### 3.4.1 Printed Newspaper Articles

**Method:**

Surname, Initials. (Year, Month Date). Title of article in sentence case.  
*Newspaper Title in Italics and Title Case*, p. or pp.

**e.g.**

Chauke, P. (2011, August 7). My two soccer loves. *The Sunday Sun*, pp. 1, 5.

#### 3.4.2 Electronic Newspaper Articles

**Method**

Surname, Initials. (Year, Month Date). Title of article in sentence case. *Newspaper Title in Italics and Title Case*. URL of Newspaper Home Page

**e.g.**

Wright, S. (2001, January 25). Curriculum 2000 draws criticism. *The Chronicle*. <http://www.chronicle.duke.edu/>

### 3.5 WEB ITEMS

**Note:** You do not need to enter the retrieval date except if the website is changeable.

**Method:**

Surname, Initials. (Year). *Title in italics and in sentence case: Subtitle in italics and sentence case*. URL

**e.g.**

Scott, E. (2009). *Stress in college: Common causes of stress in college*. [http://stress.about.com/od/studentstress/a/stress\\_college.htm/](http://stress.about.com/od/studentstress/a/stress_college.htm/)

### 3.6 AUDIOVISUAL ITEMS

**Method**

Surname, Initials. (Contribution), & Surname, Initials. (Contribution). (Year). *Title of item in sentence case and italics: Subtitle of item in sentence case and italics* [Medium]. Publisher etc. URL

**e.g.**

Maynard, L. I. (Producer). (2000). *How to avoid plagiarism and copyright infringement* [Audio podcast], NPR. <http://www.xxx.xxx>