Introduction to APA Formatting

In-Text Citations: Basic Rules

• Author-date method is used, meaning that author’s last name and year of publication is reported in text.

• Page numbers are necessary only for a direct quote.

• All sources cited in the text should appear in the full reference list at end of paper.

• List all authors on first citation, unless a paper has 6 or more authors. See APA manual p. 177 for a useful table with more details.

Examples

Use parentheses in text to cite authors: use last name only and year of publication
The literature supports training to improve blood pressure measurement (Kemp, Foster & McKinlay, 1994).

When referring to author in text, omit the author’s name from the in-text citation
According to the Institute of Medicine (2010), supports should be in place to allow nurses to achieve the highest level of training possible.

When citing more than one work, order them alphabetically and separate by semi-colon
The accuracy of vital sign measurement can be influenced by many factors (Kemp et al., 1994; Johnson, Winkelman, Burant, & Trotten, 2014).

Reference List: Basic Rules

• Each line after the first one is indented ½ inch from the left margin (hanging indentation).

• Entries are alphabetized by last name of first author. Do not change order of authors listed on article.

• Authors names are written with last name first, followed by one or two initials.

• List full name of journals, capitalize as the journal does, and place in italics. Do not use italics anywhere else in citation.

• Capitalize first word only of titles of articles, books, chapters, and web pages. Only capitalize proper nouns or the first word after a colon.
Examples

Online journal article

Book

Webpage

For more information about when to cite and using APA style, see the UI Libraries nursing guide on choosing and citing sources: http://guides.lib.uiowa.edu/choosingandcitingsources