Additional APA Documentation

Legal Materials

Common abbreviations in reference list documentation:

- Cong. U.S. Congress: F. Federal Reporter
- Res. Resolution: Cong. Rec. Congressional Record
- Reg. Confirmed

Court Cases

In the text of the document, cite the name of the case in italics and the year of the decision. If more than one year is given, cite all years. Note that only v. is used between names for in-text citations.

Within a sentence: Broward v. Smith (1976)
At the end of a sentence: (Broward v. Smith, 1976)

For works with no identified author, give the first few words of the reference list entry and date.

The typical reference list entry for court decisions gives the title or name of the case, e.g., party vs. party (in plain text); the citation, usually to a volume and page of one of the books where published cases can be found; and finally, in parentheses, the exact court and the date of the decision.

Basic format: Name vs. Name, Volume Abbreviated Source Page (abbreviated Court Year).


This example means the decision was rendered by the federal district court for the Western District of Washington in 1976. It appears in volume 250 of the Federal Supplement and starts on page 1179 of that volume.
For more information about how to cite legal references, consult the most recent edition of *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* (18th ed., 2005)

**Appealed Cases** (from APA manual, (6th ed.) p. 218):

In-text citation: *Durflinger v. Artiles* (1981/1984)

Reference list entry:


Explanation: This decision was rendered by the federal district court for the District of Kansas in 1981. On appeal, the decision was affirmed by the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in 1984.

**Cases Decided by the U.S. Supreme Court** (APA manual, (6th ed.) p. 219):

Reference list entry:


The first citation is to the *United States Reports*. . . . The second citation is to the *Supreme Court Reporter*. Use this source when the volume of the *United States Reports* in which the case will appear has not yet been published.

**Statutes** (APA manual, (6th ed.) pp. 219-220):

**In the text of your paper**, cite the popular or official name of the act (if any) and the year of the act:

Mental Health Systems Act (1988)  or  Mental Health Systems Act of 1988

**In the references list entry**, include the source and section number of the statute, and in parentheses, give the publication date of the statutory compilation, which may be different from the year in the name of the act (p. 219). Some states may use chapter or article numbers instead of section numbers.

Basic format: Name of Act, Volume Source § section number (year).


Note: the section symbol § is found in the Symbols menu in MS Word under the tab Special Characters.
In-text citation format: Title/Number (year)
Reference list entry format: Title/Number, Volume Source § xxx (year).

In text: Executive Order no. 11,609 (1994) or (Executive Order No. 11,609, 1994)

Groups as Authors
If a government agency, corporation, or association is the only identified author of a source, the first in-text citation should spell out their name, then, if applicable, an easily identified abbreviation may be used for subsequent citations (APA manual 6th ed., pp. 176, 177):
First in-text citation: National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH, 2003)
Parenthetical format, first in-text citation: (National Institute of Mental Health [NIMH], 2003)
Subsequent parenthetical citations: (NIMH, 2003)
Group, no abbreviation: University of Pittsburg (2005) or (University of Pittsburg, 2005)

Personal Communications
Personal communications (e.g., conversations, email, phone interviews, class lectures, instant message chats, anything not archived and retrievable) are to be cited in text only. Give the initials and family name of the communicator, and the exact date if possible.
Example:
C.K. Gingerschott (personal communication, April 14, 2011) found a shocking trend among student attitudes.
The instructor found a shocking trend among student attitudes (C.K. Gingerschott, personal communication, April 14, 2011).

If there is an archive of the communication, the source should be documented as to where it can be recovered. See APA manual (6th ed.) p. 212.

Secondary Sources
A primary or original source is preferred, but if it is unavailable, or not in English, put the secondary source in the list of references. In the text, name the original work, then in parentheses, as cited in the secondary source.
For example, you refer to a researcher’s findings that were mentioned in a book by someone else:

Fujita revealed (as cited in D’Angelo, 2009) that . . . or
. . . , which was revealed by Fujita (as cited in D’Angelo, 2009).

In the references list, give the entry for the book authored by D’Angelo.

Online Sources
Online Communities
These may include blogs, newsgroups, online forums, and discussion groups, and electronic mailing lists.
For in-text citations, as always, give the author(s)’s last name and the year.
Reference list entry format:
Author or screen name. (Year, Month day). Title of message [Description of form].
Retrieved from URL

The author name is the usual “last name, initials” or a screen name, if that is all there is. The date is when the material was posted. After the date, give the message subject line or “thread” in plain text. In square brackets, describe the message. The URL should be where the message can be found again, and the name of the list to which the message was posted should be mentioned if it is not part of the URL.
Blog post (APA manual (6th ed.) p. 215 #76):

A comment on the posting would be thus:

Video blog post (APA manual (6th ed.) p. 215 #77):

Note the title of the video is not italicized, and only the first word is capitalized.


If no DOI, then give the URL or database name.

Online reference work (APA manual (6th ed.) p. 205, #29):
Other Media Sources

Film or video recording (APA manual (6th ed.), p. 209, #49):


In-text citations, include side and band or track numbers: “Shadow and the Frame” (lang, 2008, track 10).
References list entry:

References