

Writing in APA Style for Literature Reviews

Information from: *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 5th ed.*

Components of paper

Title page: Name, title, class, section, date

Body (use headers where appropriate)

References: end of paper with centered title References

Margins One inch margins are required on every side. (File > Page setup)

Spacing Double-space or single-spaced

Font Times New Roman, 12 point

Page numbers Make sure to put page numbers at top right corner of every page (in header)

Citations in the Text

ONE WORK BY SINGLE AUTHOR:

Smith (1983) compared reaction times

In a recent study of reaction times it was found that (Smith, 1983)

In 1983, Smith compared reaction times

ONE WORK BY THREE OR MORE AUTHORS:

Cite all authors the first time the reference occurs; in subsequent citations include only the surname of the first author followed by "et al." (not underlined and with no period after "et") and the year.

Citations apart of the text, use and , when citing in parentheses use & symbol.

Williams, Jones, Smith, Bradner, and Torringon (1983) found (*first citation*)

Researchers (Williams, Jones, Smith, Bradner, & Torringon, 1983) found (*first citation*)

Williams et al. (1983) found (*subsequent citations*)

CITING MULTIPLE ARTICLES AT ONE TIME

Separate two or more citations with semi-colon, and list in alphabetical order.

Several studies have shown that monozygotic twins tend to be more similar than dizygotic twins on this dimension (Dunn & Plomin, 1986; Plomin, DeFries, & Fulker, 1988). (*first citation*)

INCLUDING A PAGE NUMBER WHEN USING A QUOTE

As Rose (1995) stated how genetic effects are modulated (p. 627).

Temperament, defined as constitutionally based individual differences in reactivity and self-regulation (Rothbart & Ahadi, 1994, p. 55),

REFERENCING A STUDY READ IN ANOTHER SOURCE

You should attempt to obtain any study that you are referencing, as descriptions of studies may be interpreted differently person to person. In the case that you are unable (or do not need) to get the original source, then the citation should include both sources (one referring to and the one where information was found).

For example: Consequently, experts can devote more working memory capacity to using recalled information to reason and solve problems (Bjorklund & Douglas, 1997, as cited in Berk, 2003). In the references you would only list Berk, 2003, not the original paper.

References at end of paper

- Arrange entries in alphabetical order by last name of the first author.
- General format: Author last name, first initial (year). Title. Journal, issue, pages.
- Use a hanging indent for 2nd line of reference (Format>Paragraph>Special select hanging).
- When your reference list contains multiple works by the same author:
 - Single author entries precede multiple-author entries beginning with the same last name
 - References with the same first author and different second or third authors are arranged alphabetically by the last name of the second author, etc.
 - References with the same authors in the same order are arranged by year of publication, earliest first

Examples of references

JOURNAL ARTICLE, ONE AUTHOR

Baumrind, D. (1967). Child care practices anteceding three patterns of preschool behavior. *Genetic Psychology Monographs*, 75(1), 43-88.

JOURNAL ARTICLE, MULTIPLE AUTHORS:

Ahadi, S. A., Rothbart, M. K., & Ye, R. (1993). Children's temperament in the US and China: Similarities and differences. *European Journal of Personality*, 7(5), 359-377.

ENTIRE BOOK

Harris, J. R. (1998). *The nurture assumption: Why children turn out the way they do*. New York: The Free Press.

ARTICLE OR CHAPTER IN EDITED BOOK

LeVine, R. A. (1988). Human parental care: Universal goals, cultural strategies, individual behavior. In R. A. LeVine & P. M. Miller & M. M. West (Eds.), *Parental behavior in diverse societies* (pp. 3-12). San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

WEBSITE

Try to use the format above with the information you have available on the website. If you do not have an author, use website name at beginning. For example:

Babycenter.com (2005). Back up childcare plans.

<http://www.babycenter.com/refcap/baby/babychildcare/5935.html>

Good writing tips

USE OTHER LITERATURE REVIEWS AND ARTICLES AS A GUIDE

QUOTATIONS: Quotations should be extremely rare in scientific writing, and should only be used if exact wording or terminology is needed.

VOICE: AVOID 1ST PERSON (GALVAN, 2004, P. 54)

Ex. Improper voice for academic writing

In this review, I will show that the literature on treating juvenile murderers is sparse and suffers from the same problems as the general literature Unfortunately, I have found that most of the treatment results are based on clinical case reports of

Ex. Suitable voice for academic writing

The literature on treating juvenile murderers is sparse and suffers from the same problems as the general literature Most of the treatment results are based on clinical case reports

AVOID SLANG. USE PROFESSIONAL LANGUAGE

conducted a study instead of did a study

examined instead of looked at

utilize instead of use (where appropriate)

great deal instead of a lot

furthermore instead of run-on sentences

ORGANIZE THE PAPER BY TOPICS NOT CHRONOLOGY: Build paper with a clear thesis. Good writing should provide clear and organized evidence for your argument or theory.

BE CONCISE: Delete unnecessary words, phrases, and sentences to drastically improve your writing. Scientific writing is concise and to-the-point!

REVISE AND REWRITE: Good writing takes hard work. Give yourself enough time to take a break from the paper. Time away from the paper provides perspective regarding organization and allows the opportunity to find technical errors.

CITATIONS: It is imperative that you use good citation habits. It is plagiarism to use other writers words and IDEAS.

USE ASSISTANCE OF WRITING CENTER ON 2ND FLOOR OF LIBRARY (M F 1-4PM)

References

American Psychological Association (2003). Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (5th Ed).

Galvan, J. L. (2004). Writing Literature Reviews: A guide for students of the social and behavioral sciences (2nd Ed). Glendale, CA: Pryczak Publishing

Hamilton College Writing Center (2004). <http://onthehill.hamilton.edu/academics/resource/wc/index.html>.

(EXAMPLE PAPER)
Title for Literature Review Paper

Name
Wofford College
Class and section
Date

(page break)

Title for Literature Review Paper

Introduction

Establish your argument/thesis
Describe organization of paper what will be covered in paper

Body of paper

Reorder notes to group material by content.
Use topic headings and subheadings. Headings should reflect what the section is about.
Headings should be left justified on a separate line (not bolded).
Subheadings are left justified and italicized.
Synthesize material in each section.
Summarize the overall findings or conclusions.

Point 1

Point 2

Point 3

Conclusions

Summarize entire paper at the end.
Discuss conclusions and future directions.

(page break)

References

Author Last, F. (Year). Title ABCD12345. *Journal from the American Psychological Association*, edition number, page numbers.
Author Last, F. (Year). Title. *Journal*, edition number, page numbers.

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