

The American Psychological Association style is an editorial format used primarily in fields where the timeliness of sources is most important.

Correct citation is often a matter of interpretation. The APA Manual cited below does not, and cannot, cover every possible variation of published material. In compiling this handout, we have often combined different examples from that manual. What is important to remember is that the purpose of citation format is clarity, which depends on consistency, so as to guide the reader directly and accurately to the source of information cited.

The following examples are based on two reliable sources:

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association*. 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association.

BCC Library Media Center Call no.: REF BF76.7.P83 2010  
(Kept at the Reference Desk)

Online: This tutorial was created by librarian Nicole Longpre in 2009:

<http://bellevuecollege.edu/lmc/APA/>

In selecting these examples of nursing-related publications we have tried to address questions that have come up frequently in the past (before January 2010). Suggestions for examples for future updates are welcome.

**General Considerations:**

- All references cited in the text should be listed alphabetically by the first author's last name.
- Pay close attention to the punctuation and layout that is given on this handout.
- All lines, except the first line of entry, are indented 5 spaces (one tab).
- The APA 6<sup>th</sup> ed. has added a DOI, or Digital Object Identifier for references to online articles. It can be found in the record if it is present; none of the following examples contained this DOI, so for these online sources the database name has been given.
- In a bibliography or list of references, the entries should be double spaced, with no extra space between sources.

## **BOOKS**

### **Basic Format**

Author Last Name, First Initial. Second Initial. (Year). *Book title*. (Edition).  
City of publication, State: Publisher.

### **Entire Book, Single Author, Edition Number Given**

Bellenir, K. (2006). *Asthma sourcebook* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Detroit, MI: Omnigraphics, Inc.

### **Entire Book, Multiple Authors**

Haas, F. & Haas, S.S. (2000). *The chronic bronchitis and emphysema handbook*. New York, NY: John Wiley.

### **Authored Chapter in an Edited Book**

Wise, R.A. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. (2006). In M.H. Beers (Ed.), *The Merck manual of diagnosis and therapy* (18<sup>th</sup> ed., pp. 400-422). Whitehouse Station, NJ: Merck Research Laboratories.

Note 1: In the book above, the name of the author was gleaned from the listing at the beginning of the book. The article appears to be unsigned, but is not.

Note 2. **Re multiple authors or editors:** When a book has up to six authors or editors, list all the names. However, if there is a chief editor named, as with the book above, that single name is sufficient to identify a particular edition of the book.

Cronin, S.N. & Miracle, K. (2005). Management of clients with lower airway and pulmonary vessel disorders. In J.M. Black & J.H. Hawks (Eds.), *Medical-surgical nursing: Clinical management for positive outcomes* (7<sup>th</sup> ed., pp. 1807-1836). St. Louis, MO: Elsevier Saunders.

### **Chapter in an Online Encyclopedia, Author Given**

Atkins, W.A. (2006). Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. In J.L. Longe, (Ed.), *The Gale encyclopedia of nursing & allied health* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Detroit, MI: Gale.  
<http://www.gale.cengage.com/servlet/ItemDetailServlet?region=9&imprint=000&titleCode=GENAHE&cf=e&type=4&id=225998>

## **PERIODICAL ARTICLES**

### **Basic Format**

Author last name, First initial. (Year, + date for magazines or newspapers).  
Title of article. *Title of Periodical, volume no. (issue no.)*, pages.

Note: The volume number, which corresponds to the year of publication, is in italics.  
The issue number, which corresponds to the month of publication, is not.

### **Journal Article, Hard Copy, Continuous Pagination, Single Author**

Note: in the following example, the single author is a "Corporate Author".

National Emphysema Treatment Trial Research Group. (2003). A randomized trial comparing lung-volume-reduction surgery with medical therapy for severe emphysema. *New England Journal of Medicine, 348*, 2059-2073.

### **Journal Article Retrieved from a Database, Paginated by Issue**

Wisniewski, A. (2003). Chronic bronchitis and emphysema: Clearing the air. *Nursing, 33*(5), 46-49. Retrieved from EBSCOhost database.

### **Popular Magazine Article Example, No Author Name, Retrieved from a Database**

Key tests for COPD vastly underutilized. (2007, October). *USA Today Magazine, (136)*, 6-7. Retrieved from EBSCOhost database.

### **Newspaper Article Retrieved from a Database**

Carpenter, S. (2009, March 31). Treating an illness is one thing. What about a patient with many? *The New York Times*, p. D1. Retrieved from ProQuest database.

## **WEB SITES**

### **Basic Format**

Author or sponsor of site. (Date). Document title or description. Retrieved from url.

### **Organizational sites**

Mayo Clinic Staff. (2009, March 26). COPD. Retrieved from <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/copd/DS00916>