It is important to cite sources properly when you are researching and writing a paper or preparing a presentation. This beginner’s guide to citing sources uses the 6th edition of the American Psychological Association’s (APA) style format, a style most often used in fields related to the social and natural sciences. When including these in your paper, remember to include them on a separate page in alphabetical order, with the title “Reference List”.

For more information on citations in APA format, we like to suggest:

- Purdue’s Online Writing Lab (OWL) at http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/
- NoodleTools located on the NCC library’s homepage or at www.noodletools.com
- Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th ed.) located in the NCC library

The following are some examples of APA-formatted citations:

**Books:**

Basic Form: Author, A. A. or Editor, E.E. (Year of publication). Title of the book. Publisher location: Publisher name.


**Magazine and Newspaper Articles:**

Basic Form: Author, A. A. or Editor, E.E. (if given) (Year, Date of publication). Title of the article. Periodical title, Volume(Issue), Pages.


**Academic, Scholarly, or Peer-Reviewed Journals:**

**Basic Form:** Author, A. A. or Editor, E.E. (Year of publication). Title of the article. *Journal title, Volume* (Issue no. if known), Pages.

**Print:** Smith, L. S. (2013). Reaching for cultural competence. *Nursing2013, 43*(6), 30-37.


**Film or Video Recording:**

**Basic Form:** Producer, P. P. (Producer), & Director, D. D. (Director). (Year). *Title of movie or video*. [Videocassette or DVD]. Country of origin: Studio.


**Web Pages:**

**Basic Form:** Author, A. A. or Editor, E.E. (Date of publication or n.d. for no date). Title. DOI number or retrieval statement including URL


**Commonly Used NCC Sources:**


Parenthetical (In-text) References:

When using a quotation or any information obtained from a source, you must point the reader to a specific entry included on your Reference List. This is referred to as a parenthetical reference or an in-text citation. If you cite a reference in a text, it must also appear in the Reference List. The reverse is also true: if you add an entry to the Reference List it must be cited within the text. The APA style of in-text citation includes the author name and date of the publication. The following examples are the most common. For additional examples, please utilize the sources listed at the end of this guide.

Print Sources

Basic Form: Sentence (Author, date of publication).

Examples: While many countries used blood groups to determine the paternity of a given Child, “California did not do so until 1953” (Starr, 1998).

According to Starr (1998) California did not use blood groups to determine the paternity of a child until 1953.

For authors with the same surname, add initials.
   Example: (H. L. Lawrence, 1992)

For two authors, always cite both names.
   Example: (Kennefick & Young, 1999)

For three or more authors, cite all authors the first time, then list the first author’s name followed by “et al” for all following citations:
   First time: (Kris, Harms, Asmus & Johnson, 2008)
   Rest of paragraph: (Kris et al., 2008)

For six or more authors, cite the name of the first author followed by et al.
   Example: (Hannity et al., 2006)

For items with no author or anonymous, cite the first few words of the reference list entry (usually the title) and the year.

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- Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th ed.) located in the NCC library