

APSA Style Guide for Citations and References

Any information that appears in your paper and that is not your own requires citation. This includes direct quotes, as well as paraphrases of information and general ideas. One easily implemented system is the American Political Science Association's (APSA) parenthetical citation system, in which source information is provided in the text in parentheses. Typically, the citation, which appears in parentheses right after the direct quote, paraphrase, etc., includes the last name of the author(s), year of publication, and page number.

For example:

“Interest groups are among the prime shapers of public policy in the United States. They contribute vast amounts of money and personnel to political campaigns” (Segal and Spaeth 1993: 240).

The format is exactly the same even if it is a paraphrase rather than a direct quote:

Organized interests play a very active role in the development of policy in America, most notably by promoting the election of candidates for office (Segal and Spaeth 1993: 240).

Note that, unless there is something particularly special about the language of the direct quote, paraphrasing is more desirable.

When a citation is to a work as a whole rather than something appearing on a particular page or pages, the page number can be omitted. This should be a very rare occurrence, however.

For example:

There is substantial disagreement as to whether interest group amicus curiae participation influences the decision making of Supreme Court justices. Some have provided empirical support for their influence (Kearney and Merrill 2000), while others have concluded no relationship exists (Songer and Sheehan 1993).

Page numbers can also be omitted when they do not exist; e.g., an article published only on a website.

When a citation is to a legal case, include the italicized case name in the text, followed by the year the case was decided in parentheses.

For example:

In *Mapp v. Ohio* (1961), the Supreme Court applied the exclusionary rule to the states.

When you are directly quoting a Supreme Court case, list the case citation in parentheses, as well as the page number that corresponds to the quote.

For example:

Writing for the Court in *Mapp v. Ohio* (1961), Justice Clark stated that, in applying the exclusionary rule to the states, the Court “gives to the individual no more than that which the Constitution guarantees him, to the police officer no less than that to which honest law enforcement is entitled, and, to the courts, that judicial integrity so necessary in the true administration of justice” (367 U.S. 643, at 660).

Remember that there should be a corresponding entry in the Works Cited section for each work cited in the body of the paper.

The Works Cited Section

The Works Cited section should appear at the very end of the paper. It should include complete citation information for all works cited in the body of the text, listed in alphabetical order by author. No items other than those specifically referenced and used in the body of the paper should appear in the works cited section. Any information that was taken from a work should be included in the Works Cited section and should also appear as a parenthetical citation.

Article from a journal, single author

List the author’s name, last name first. The year of publication appears next, followed by the title of the article (in quotation marks) and the name of the journal (in italics). The volume number should come next, followed by the issue number (or month) in parentheses, with the page numbers of the article appearing last.

Aldrich, John H. 1980. “A Dynamic Model of Presidential Nomination Campaigns.” *American Political Science Review* 74(September): 651-669.

Article from a journal, more than one author

List the first author’s name, last name first, followed by the second author’s name, first name first. The year of publication appears next, followed by the title of the article (in quotation marks) and the name of the journal (in italics). The volume number should come next, followed by the issue number (or month) in parentheses, with the page numbers of the article appearing last.

Hillerman, Anthony, and John McPhee. 1997. “A New Model of the World.” *American Political Science Review* 78(September): 111-145.

Article from a magazine

List the author’s name, last name first. The year of publication appears next, followed by the title of the article (in quotation marks) and the name of the magazine (in italics). The month of publication should come next, with the page numbers of the article appearing last.

Prufer, Olaf. 1964. “The Hopewell Cult.” *Scientific American*, December, 13-15.

Article from a newspaper

List the author's name, last name first. The year of publication appears next, followed by the title of the article (in quotation marks) and the name of the newspaper (in italics). The month of the publication should come next, followed by the day, month, and year of publication.

Cuff, Daniel F. 1985. "Forging a New Shape for Steel." *New York Times*, 26 May 1985.

Book, single author

List the author's name, last name first. The year of publication appears next, followed by the title of the book (in italics). The city and state of publication should come next, followed by the name of the publisher.

Kessel, John H. 1968. *The Goldwater Coalition: Republican Strategies in 1964*. Indianapolis, IN: Bobbs-Merrill.

Book, more than one author

List the first author's name, last name first, followed by the second author's name, first name first. The year of publication appears next, followed by the title of the book (in italics). The city and state of publication should come next, followed by the name of the publisher.

Sourauf, Frank J., and Paul Allen Beck. 1988. *Party Politics in America*. 6th ed. Glenview, IL: Scott, Foresman.

Chapter in an edited volume

List the name of the author of the chapter, last name first. The year of publication appears next, followed by the title of the chapter (in quotation marks) and the title of the book (in italics). The name of the editor of the book appears next, followed by the city and state of publication and the name of the publisher.

Hermann, Margaret G. 1984. "Personality and Foreign Policy Decision Making: A Study of Fifty-Three Heads of Government." In *Foreign Policy Decision Making*, eds. Donald A. Sylvan and Steve Chan. New York, NY: Praeger.

Legal References

List the full case citation. The case name comes first, followed by the citation; finally, list the year the case was decided (in parenthesis).

Mapp v. Ohio, 367 U.S. 643 (1961).

Website

List the author's name, last name first. The year of publication (if noted on the website) or the year of access if no year of publication is available appears next. The title of the article (in quotation marks) appears next, followed by the complete URL. The last date on which the item was accessed appears last in parentheses.

Collins, Paul M., Jr. 2005. "Data Management in Stata."
<http://www.polsci.uh.edu/pmcollins/Seminar%20on%20Data%20Management%20in%20Stata.pdf> (August 8, 2006).

Note that ****all**** material appearing on the web has an "author." If there is no particular individual listed as author, then the author is the sponsor of the website (e.g., American Civil Liberties Union). Likewise, all material appearing on the web has a "date of publication." If there is no date indicated, then the date is the date of last access.

Note, too, that print materials that are located on the web (e.g., *The New York Times* on-line, an article from an academic journal found via JSTOR) follow the format corresponding to their original print source, not that for websites.

Additional Information

For more information on APSA style, see the following websites:

The University of Wisconsin-Madison Writing Center (provides a very intuitive overview of APSA style):

<http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/DocAPSA.html>

Lamar University Political Science Department (provides an abridged version of the APSA style manual. Note that it is quite detailed, but if you can not find what you are looking for on the UWM webpage, you can likely find it here):

<http://dept.lamar.edu/polisci/DRURY/drury.html>