

APA Style - An Overview

APA was developed by the American Psychological Association to allow writers to cite sources in academic papers, and is used widely in the social sciences. It is often referred to as an 'author-date' system, and it serves two basic purposes: to provide readers with *in-text citations* and a *reference page* showing all sources used by the writer.

In-text Citation Examples

According to Riley (2016), "the newest micro consoles offer users a seemingly infinite array of features, all designed to make gaming more interactive than ever before" (p. 23). Other researchers, however, are deeply troubled by the effect these devices are having on the cognitive acuity of users, particularly teens (Gruber, 2015; Nugent, 2014; Singh, 2017).

Reference Page Examples (book, journal)

Dennett, D.C. (2007). *Breaking the spell: Religion as a natural phenomenon*. New York: Penguin.

Miller, S.R. (1998). Shortcut: High school grades as a signal of human capital. *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, 20,(4), 299-307.

Additional Tips

- Treat Internet sources as you would print materials i.e. include an author, date, title and URL, and list them alphabetically with books, journal articles etc. [more on electronic sources in a future issue]
- Personal communications will appear only as in-text citations. Because they can't be retrieved, don't put them in the reference page.

