

APA REFERENCING- THE BASICS

This guide is intended as a quick introduction to APA style referencing at the University of Wolverhampton. A full guide is available separately through the [Skills for Learning webpages](#).

The university also subscribes to [Cite Them Right Online](#), a referencing tool that includes APA style.

WHY REFERENCE?

The Psychology Department supports the APA (6th) referencing system. It is important to be clear, consistent and correct when citing and listing the original sources you have drawn upon – this helps ensure that you avoid being accused of plagiarism. Most assignments during your time at the University of Wolverhampton will be assessed on the quality of your referencing which will count towards your grade. Referencing also ensures that you can demonstrate which sources you have used and how your ideas build upon the research of others.

APA Referencing includes two main parts:

- a citation within the text of your assignment
- a list of references at the end of your assignment

REFERENCING IN YOUR TEXT - CITATIONS

When you summarise, refer to, or quote from an author's work in your document, you need to acknowledge your source in the text. This is called an 'in-text citation'. When using APA, you do this by putting the author's surname and publication year in brackets. If the name of the author appears naturally in your sentence, only the year should be in brackets. If you use a direct word for word quotation then include the page number after the year of publication.

In-text citation		
One Author	(Mercer, 2015)	...Mercer (2015) argues that....
Two Authors	(Wesson & Derrer-Randall, 2011)	...according to Wesson and Derrer-Randall (2011)....
Three to five Authors	(Orchard, Fullwood, Galbraith, & Morris, 2014)	Research by Orchard, Fullwood, Galbraith, and Morris (2014) shows that....
Six or more Authors	(Smith et al., 2015)	Smith et al. (2015) proved that....
Organisation	(University of Wolverhampton, 2017)	Advice from the University of Wolverhampton (2017) states...

Note: et al. should always be used for in-text citations where there are six or more authors; where there are three to five authors all surnames are given in the first citation and et al. can then be used for any subsequent citations. For two authors both surnames are always given in the citation.

Examples:

- Excellent study skills are fundamental to academic success (Cottrell, 2010).
- Cottrell (2010) argues that excellent study skills are fundamental to academic success.
- "The importance of academic skills should not be underestimated" (Cottrell, 2010, p. 19).



THE REFERENCE LIST – KEY EXAMPLES

All Psychology students are required to submit a reference list for any report or essay – this should be completed in alphabetical order by author's surname regardless of the type of source. Only sources that you have directly cited in your essay should be included; a bibliography is not required.

Multiple authors rule: in the reference list, for sources with up to and including 7 authors, all authors should be listed. For sources with 8 or more authors include the first 6 authors followed by . . . and then the last named author.

Journal articles

Include the following information:

Surname and initials of author(s) (Published Year). Title of Article. *Title of Journal, Volume number (issue number)*, first page number-last page number.

Example – Article with 1 to 7 authors:

Bowlin, W. F., Simpson, H., Renner, C. J., Rives, J. M., Midda, M., Field, J., & Curry, S. (2003). A DEA study of gender equity in executive compensation. *Journal of the Operation Research Society, 54(7)*, 751-7.

Example – Article with 8 or more authors:

Heponiemi, T., Elovainio, M., Pentii, J., Virtanen, M., Westerlund, H., Virtanen, P., . . . Vahtera, J. (2010). Association of contractual and subjective job insecurity with sickness presenteeism among public sector employees. *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, 52(8)*, 830-835.

Online journal articles

Include the following information:

Surname and initials of author(s) (Published Year). Title of Article. *Title of Journal, Volume number (issue number)*, first page number-last page number. doi: or Retrieved from web address

Example:

Platt, T. (2008). Emotional responses to ridicule and teasing: Should gelotophobes react differently? *Humor: International Journal of Humour Research, 21(2)*, 105-128. doi:10.1515/HUMOR.2008.005

Books

Include the following information:

Surname and initials of author (Published Year). *Title of book*. (Edition if later than 1st.). Place of Publication: Publisher.

Example – Book with 1 to 7 authors:

Field, A. (2013). *Discovering statistics using IBM SPSS statistics (4th ed.)*. London: Sage.

Example – Book with 8 or more authors:

Ball, B., Blum, R., Chastain, T. D., Duff, H., Horvath, D. B., Kennedy, J., . . . Simpson, C. (2002). *Psychology and the mind*. Indianapolis, IN: Sage.



Online Book (E-book)

Include the following information:

Surname and initials of author(s) (Published Year). *Title of book*. (Edition if later than 1st.). doi: (when available) or Retrieved from web address

Example:

Burr, V. (1998). *Gender and social psychology*. Retrieved from <http://www.ebrary.com/>

Chapter in an edited book

Include the following information:

Surnames and initials of chapter author(s) (Published Year). Chapter title. In Initials and surnames of editor(s) (Ed.) or (Eds.), *Title of book* (page numbers of whole chapter). Place of Publication: Publisher.

Example:

Hinton, D. P., & Stevens-Gill, D. (2016). Psychometrics in organisational settings. In A. Attrill & C. Fullwood (Eds.), *Applied cyberpsychology: Practical applications of cyberpsychological research and theory* (pp. 236-255). London: Palgrave Macmillan.

If the book chapter has been accessed in an e-book, the place and publisher details are not required. Give instead the doi: (when available) or Retrieved from web address at the end of your reference.

Newspaper articles

Include the following information:

Surnames and initials of author(s) (Published Year, month date). Title of article. *Newspaper name*, page number(s). or Retrieved from web address

Example – Print copy newspaper article:

Smith, D. (2008, June 26). House price markets. *The Times*, p. 25.

Example – Online newspaper article:

Brody, J. E. (2007, December 11). Mental reserves keep brain agile. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <http://www.nytimes.com>

Web page with named author(s)

Include the following information:

Surname and initials of author(s) (Published Year). *Title of Webpage*. Retrieved from web address.

Example:

Nesse, R. (2017). *Emotions*. Retrieved from <http://www.randolphness.com/articles/emotions>

Web page with organisation as author

Include the following information:

Organisation name. (Published Year). *Title of Webpage*. Retrieved from web address.

Example:

British Psychological Society (BPS). (2017). *Ethics & Standards*. Retrieved from <http://www.bps.org.uk/what-we-do/bps/ethics-standards/ethics-standards>

