Crediting a Source in the Text of Your Paper

APA uses an “author/year” style which places the author(s) and year in prominent positions in the text. The author and year also act as tags for finding the related entry on the References page. There are two ways to place the author/year information into your paper:

Moeck and Yoon (2004) have shown how green buildings can substantially reduce the amount of lighting needed in office spaces. When properly built, “between 89 and 84% can be supplied by daylight” (p. 158).

Green buildings can substantially reduce the amount of lighting needed in office spaces (Moeck & Yoon, 2004).

Include the page number for direct quotations or specific information. Notice the word “and” in the first sample, but the use of an ampersand (&) for the parenthetical citation in the second sample.

Creating a References Page

Each of the individual sources you cited in the text of your paper must be found on the References page (the final page of your paper). Notice that only the first word of titles and subtitles of articles and book are capitalized. Journal titles are capitalized normally. Here are a few samples:

Journal article from a database:

*Hint: Find the journal’s homepage online for the retrieval statement. If you must include the database, use the database title and the URL for the entry page, not the long URL for the article.*

Journal article with a DOI number:

Journal article from an online journal or downloaded from a website other than a database:

Book:

Article with no author:
Essay or chapter in an edited collection or an anthology:

Newspaper article:

Website:

Hints: An “updated” or copyright year posted on a website is not the same as a publication date. Use n.d. (no date) if you can’t establish a publication date.

Government Source:

Dealing with Authors

In the text of your paper, follow these models:

One author:
Frosch (1997) maintained that . . .
. . . many waste materials can be reclaimed (Frosch, 1997).

Two authors:
Frosch and Midesky (1997) maintained that . . .
. . . many waste materials can be reclaimed (Frosch & Midesky, 1997).

Three to five authors, first mention in your paper:
Frosch, Midesky, Grant, and Choo (1997) maintained that . . .
. . . many waste materials can be reclaimed (Frosch, Midesky, Grant, & Choo, 1997).

Three to five authors, subsequent reference in your paper:
Frosch et al. (1997) maintained that . . .
. . . many waste materials can be reclaimed (Frosch et al., 1997).

Six or more authors, at any point in your paper:
Frosch et al. (1997) maintained that . . .
. . . many waste materials can be reclaimed (Frosch et al., 1997).

On your References page, follow these models:

One author:

Two authors:

Three to seven authors:


Hints: List the first six, and then list the final author after an ellipses (. . ).