APA CITATIONS WORKSHOP

UVU Writing Center
What is APA?

- APA stands for The American Psychological Association
- APA is typically used in the Behavioral & Social Sciences

APA Manual, 6th edition, 2nd printing
Why do writers use APA?

- To join the academic conversation
- Increase credibility
  - Provide your audience with info to validate sources
  - Support your claims
- Avoid plagiarism
  - Give credit where credit is due
When Do We Cite?

- Whenever you make any claim that you did not personally come up with, you should cite your source. This includes inferring (to conclude from evidence or premises), quoting, and paraphrasing (a restatement of a text or passage in another form or “in other words”).

- Plagiarism is presenting someone else’s original ideas as your own.
Do I need a citation?

☐ Which of the following quotations is common knowledge?

- “In 1492, Christopher Columbus sailed from Spain to the new world.”
- “While exploring the islands in the area and looking for gold to loot, Columbus’ men traveled to Hispaniola, Cuba, and many other small islands.”
Forming Citations

- Two parts: **In-text** and the **References** page

- **In-text:**
  - APA uses the Author-Date System.
  - Page numbers are used with direct quotations.
In-text Citation

- Each time you mention a source, you must also list the year of publication in parenthesis.
  - Use the author’s last name, followed by the year:
    - Johnson (2011)
  - For two authors, always list both:
    - Johnson and Alvarez (2011)
  - For three to five authors, list all the first time, then use et al. for subsequent citations:
    - Johnson, Alvarez, Jones, Grady, and Lawrence (2011)
    - Johnson et al. (2011)
  - For six or more authors, use et al. every time.
In-text Citation

Examples:

- The research of Johnson and Alvarez (2011) illustrated that consuming potatoes prevents weight loss in the majority of patients.
- Johnson et al. (2011) argued that yogurt may have more weigh-loss benefits than other dairy products.
In-text Citation

- When using a direct quote or paraphrasing information from a particular place, you should also list a page number.
- APA lists the page number after a “p.” or “pp.” for multiple pages.
  - Johnson and Alvarez (2011) state, “Increased consumption of potatoes led to an average weight gain of 3.4 pounds per person over a four-year period” (pp. 423-24).
  - Johnson and Alvarez (2011) demonstrate that eating potatoes can lead patients to gain as much as 3.4 pounds over four years (pp. 423-24).
  - Research shows that potatoes can cause more significant weight-gain over a four-year period than any other food (Johnson and Alvarez, 2011, pp. 423-24).
The Reference page begins on a new page. It should be titled References. The title should be centered but not bolded or italicized. List your references in alphabetical order. For specific types of citations, refer to the APA handout or the manual. Generally, references will adhere to the following format:

- Author. (Date). Title of work. *Title of larger work*. Location: Publisher. Doi or website.
Commonly-used Graduate Sources

- Chapter 7, APA manual
- Journal articles, with and without doi: pp. 198-199
- Newsletter article, p. 200
- Books and book chapters, pp. 202-203
- Reference book, p. 204
- Government and corporate reports, pp. 205-206
- Internet sources, pp. 214-215
Websites, blogs, electronic media, and other non-traditional sources:

APA does not encourage the use of these kinds of sources, but if you have to cite one, follow this format (p. 215 in APA manual):

Author. (Year, month day). Title [media description]. Retrieved from http://website

Missing Information?

- No publication date: use (n.d.)
- No author: begin the citation with the title. Use the first few words of the title in quotation marks for your in-text citation.
  - (“In defense,” 2011)
- No page number: use paragraph numbers if they are listed; otherwise, cite the heading followed by a paragraph number.
  - (Johnson, 2011, para. 4)
  - (Johnson, 2011, “Potatoes and Weight,” para. 3)
Formatting the Paper

- **Title Page**
  - **Header:**
    - Running head: Shortened version of title (the words “Running head:” appear only on the title page)
    - Page number
  - **Centered information:**
    - Title
    - Your name
    - University affiliation
    - Your instructor may also want the date, class, or other information
Formatting the Paper

- **Abstract**
  - Second page of paper
  - Should have running head and page number
  - Title Abstract should be centered but not italicized or bolded
  - Abstract body should be one paragraph that contains your main arguments and conclusions
  - List keywords that would help someone else find your paper in a database at the end of the abstract
  - Sample: APA manual, p. 41
Formatting the Paper

- Headings (APA manual, p. 62
  - Level 1: Centered, Boldface, Uppercase and Lowercase
  - Level 2: Flush left, Boldface, Uppercase and Lowercase
  - Level 3: Indented, boldface, lowercase, period.
  - Level 4: Indented, boldface, italicized, lowercase, period.
  - Level 5: Indented, italicized, lowercase, period.