

APA FORMAT FOR PSYCHOLOGY MAJORS

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BASIC INFORMATION ON APA

Margins: 1" on all sides

Line Spacing: Double space entire document, including block quotes
(40 words or more)

Punctuation: Two spaces after punctuation is suggested except
when referencing material

Voice: Use third person only

Edition: Use the APA Manual , 6th edition. Other sources,
especially online sources, may or may not be correct.

WHEN SHOULD I CITE?

Whenever the information, concept, or words are not your own or when the statement is not common knowledge.

Remember, even if you change the words, the information is still not your own, so you DO need to cite.

SAMPLE QUOTE WITH SIGNAL PHRASE

According to Anderson and Barker (2013), “the majority of college graduates who major in psychology begin a graduate program in the same field of study within five years” (p. 14).

SAMPLE QUOTE WITH THE CITATION AT THE END

“The majority of college graduates who major in psychology begin a graduate program in the same field of study within five years”
(Anderson & Barker, 2013, p. 14).

SAMPLE PARAPHRASE WITH CITATION

Although psychology graduates frequently attend graduate school, many work at entry level positions in a counseling setting while pursuing their academic degrees (Anderson & Barker, 2013).

SAMPLE CITATION WITH MULTIPLE AUTHORS

It is critical for psychology majors to acquire specific instruction in communication skills in order to successfully work with clients in any type of professional setting (Ames, 2012; Carter & James, 2011; Davis, Longman, & Richards, 2013; McNally, Martin, Carney, Fallon, & O'Hara, 2015; Thomas et al., 2014).

***Note:** These authors are listed in alphabetical order by the first letter of the last name (e.g., A/Ames; C/Carter; D/Davis, etc.)

SAMPLE BLOCK QUOTE FROM AN ONLINE SOURCE

As Jones and Taylor (2014) indicated in their recent study:

Counselors in all settings need to possess not only a working knowledge of the subtleties of spoken language, but they need to become adept at interpreting body language in order to garner important information about their clients during counseling sessions. (para. 4)

SAMPLE CITATION WITH NO AUTHOR

(Cite first few words of reference entry [e.g., name of article]).

Close to 90% of psychology graduates become employed in their area of specialty before they even graduate (“Psychology in Practice,” 2014).

SAMPLE CITATION OF ONLINE SOURCE WITH NO AUTHOR AND NO DATE

(Cite first few words of online title and the letters
n.d.)

Young adolescents who succumb to peer pressure and
are consistently unable to control their impulses,
sometimes develop a serious impulse disorder such as
gambling or kleptomania (“Will Your Child,” n.d.).

SAMPLE SECONDARY CITATION

(Use sparingly.)

According to a study conducted by Ferrentino (as cited in Lorenzo, 2015), psychology graduates who have gained professional experience in the area of alcoholism are prime candidates for earning certification as a Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor.

*** Note: You *refer* to the author of the study that you wish to discuss (Ferrentino) , but you *cite* the study that you actually read (Lorenzo, (2015). In your references section, you would list Lorenzo (NOT Ferrentino).**

WHAT DO I INCLUDE IN REFERENCES?

Only the works cited in the paper are included in the references section.

SAMPLE REFERENCE FOR A JOURNAL ARTICLE

Jones, D., & Taylor, M. J. (2014).

Prospects for college graduates
majoring in psychology. *Journal
of Ethics in Business*, 44(2), 210-
218. doi: 5.4485/21264-4177.4421

**SAMPLE REFERENCE FOR AN ONLINE
DOCUMENT WITH A CORPORATE AUTHOR**

Professionals in Psychology (2011).

*The importance of communication
skills in counseling.* Retrieved
from [http://www.psy.couns/comm
unication](http://www.psy.couns/communication)

**SAMPLE REFERENCE FOR ONLINE
ARTICLE WITH NO AUTHOR AND NO DATE**

Will your child become a kleptomaniac?

(n.d.) Retrieved from <http://www.john>

[kleptomaniaandimpulse_44](http://www.johnkleptomaniaandimpulse_44)

SAMPLE REFERENCE FOR A BOOK

Anderson, J.D., & Barker, E.K.

(2013). *The importance of reading body language in counseling sessions*. New York: Psychology for Professionals, Inc.

FREQUENTLY RESEARCHED TOPICS WITH PAGE NUMBERS

- ▣ Initial and subsequent sample citations p. 177
- ▣ Rules regarding citations pp. 169-192
- ▣ Rules for references page pp. 193-224
- ▣ Levels of headings pp. 62-63
- ▣ Rules about numbers + exceptions pp. 111-114
- ▣ Sample APA paper pp.41-49