

Guide to APSA Style Basics

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For more information, consult the *Style Manual for Political Science*, revised edition (Call number: REF JA86.A52 2001), or the *Chicago Manual of Style*, 15th edition (Call number: READY REF Z253 U69 2003).

Formatting the Reference List

1. APSA style generally follows *Chicago Manual of Style's* author-date citation practice. It requires parenthetical references within the text of the paper and a list of references at the end. See the end of this guide for examples of "reference citations in text."
2. Reference lists begin immediately following the conclusion. Type the word "References" flush against the left margin.
3. Use hanging indent form. First line of each reference is set flush left and subsequent lines are indented. References are single-spaced with one empty line between references.
4. Arranged **alphabetically**, not by format of publication (book, journal, etc.).
5. The author should be first element. If no author is present, use the editor's name. If no editor is present, start with the book title or article title.
6. List author's last name, followed by a comma then the author's first and/or middle name. Spell out authors' names. Do not use initials unless they are used by the author.
7. Book and periodical titles should be in *italics*.
8. Chapter and article titles should be contained in quotation marks.
9. The date is always the second element in a citation.
10. Capitalize each word in the titles of articles, books, etc. This rule does not apply to indefinite or definite articles (a, an, the), short prepositions, or conjunctions unless one is the first word of the title or subtitle.

See Chapter 17 of the *Chicago Manual of Style* for more reference list formatting examples.

Reference Examples

Book, one author:

Hertsgaard, Mark. 1988. *On Bended Knee: The Press and the Reagan Presidency*. New York: Schocken Books.

Chapter from book:

Wilson, Graham K. 1996. "The Clinton Administration and Interest Groups." In *The Clinton Presidency: First Appraisals*, ed. Colin Campbell and Bert A. Rockman. Chatham, NJ: Chatham House Publishers.

Journal article, two authors (print, microfilm, PDF):

Herrmann, Richard K, and Jonathan W. Keller. 2004. "Beliefs, Values, and Strategic Choice: U.S. Leaders' Decisions to Engage, Contain, and Use Force in an Era of Globalization." *Journal of Politics* 66 (May): 557-80.

Journal article, one author (from a library subscription database):

Brzoska, Michael. 2003. "From Dumb to Smart? Recent Reforms of U.N. Sanctions." *Global Governance* 9 (October-December): 519-535. Academic Search Premier (September 27, 2005).

Newspaper article, one author (print, microfilm, PDF):

Talev, Margaret. 2004. "No Budget Accord in Cards This Week." *Sacramento Bee*, 9 July.

Newspaper article, no known author (print, microfilm, PDF):

Sacramento Bee. 2004. "Eyes on Sudan: Victims of Racist Repression Need Help Now." 9 July.

Newspaper article, one author (online version):

Frates, Chris. 2003. "High School Junior Suspended after Posting Anti-war Fliers." *Denver Post*, February 28. http://www.ccmeep.org/2003_articles/Iraq/022803_high_school_junior_suspended_after.htm (September 27, 2005).

Report from a private organization available on organization Web site:

Burtless, Gary. 2004. "The Labor Force Status of Mothers Who Are Most Likely to Receive Welfare: Changes Following Reform." *The Brookings Institution*. <http://www.brookings.edu/views/oped/burtless/20040330.htm> (April 10, 2005).

Government Document online:

U.S. Department of Education. National Center for Education Statistics. 2004. *Crime and Safety in America's Public Schools: Selected Findings from the School Survey on Crime and Safety*. <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2004/2004370.pdf> (July 23, 2005).

Legal citation:

Marbury v. Madison. 1803. 5 U.S. (1 Cranch) 137; 2 L. Ed. 60.

Reference Citations in Text (Parenthetical References)

When writing your paper, whenever you express words, facts, or ideas that are not your own, you need to refer the reader to the original source of that information. Those sources are listed in the References. The author's last name and the year of publication should always appear in the text, and pages or paragraphs should be listed when citing or quoting a specific section of the work.

See Chapter 17 of the *Chicago Manual of Style* for more reference citation examples.

Examples of Citations in Text (Parenthetical References)**Author's Name in Text (no page number):**

Walker (2000) compared reaction times...

Author's Name in Reference (no page number):

In a recent study of reaction times (Walker 2000)...

Author's Name in Text (page number):

According to Jones (1998), "Students often had difficulty using APSA style" (199)

Author's Name in Reference (page number):

She stated, "Students often had difficulty using APSA style." (Jones 1998, 199)

Legal Citations (no page number):

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that foreigners currently held in U.S. custody at Guantanamo Bay are entitled to habeas corpus rights. (*Rasul v. Bush* 2004)

Government Report (page number):

Although many schools report incidents of violence, far fewer experience "serious violent incidents." (U.S. Department of Education 2004, 2)