APA Documentation System

The APA system of documentation consists of two components:

1. **Parenthetical Citations:** At the end of each passage in the text that requires documentation, insert the last name of the author followed by a comma and the year of publication, all in parentheses. **Page numbers are included only for material that has been quoted.**
   - The citation follows the last word of the passage (or the closing quotation marks) and comes before the final punctuation:
     
     . . . regarding the problem (Jones, 1981).
     . . . no easy solution to the problem” (Jones, 1981, p. 222).

   - If the name of the author is introduced in the text of the paper, it is deleted from the citation to avoid unnecessary repetition. In addition, the year (and page number for a quote) is included immediately after the name of the author:
     
     Jones (1981) has a similar view of the problem. He believes that . . .

   - If the author of the source is unknown, the citation consists of the title (abbreviated if necessary) and the year of publication (include page numbers for quotes only). The title of a book is italicized; the title of an article appears in quotation marks:
     
     . . . as previously thought (Surprising Solution, 1988).
     . . . as stated earlier” (“Surprising Solution,” 1988, p. 8).

2. **Reference Page:** At the end of the paper, a complete bibliographical entry is provided for each source. These entries are arranged alphabetically on a separate page under the heading **References.** This page should be double-spaced throughout and use reverse indentation (see examples below taken from *Publication Manual of the APA* and *The Writer’s Harbrace Handbook*).

**Examples of Reference Entries:**

**Book by one author:**


**Book by two authors (both names are reversed):**


**Essay originally published in an anthology:**


    Bloomington, IN: University Press.
Article in a magazine:

Article in a professional journal:

Newspaper article (discontinuous pages):

Online sites

Web site document with an author and a date of publication:

If the document is from a large Web site, such as one sponsored by a university or government body, give the name of the host organization before the URL:

Web site document with no identified author and no date of publication (Use the name of the organization hosting the Web site as the author):

Online magazine article:

Online journal article from a database such as LexisNexis or ProQuest: