APA Citation Style

What is APA Style ?

APA citation style refers to the rules and conventions established by the American Psychological Association for documenting sources used in a research paper.

Like all documentation styles, APA (American Psychological Association) style provides a standard system for giving credit to others for their contribution to your work. It's what we call a "parenthetical" documentation style, meaning that citations to original sources appear in your text. This allows the reader to see immediately where your information comes from, and it saves you the trouble of having to make footnotes or endnotes.

APA Style Documentation:

When you use the words or original ideas of another person in your writing, you need to document, or give credit to, the sources of those words or ideas.

In the APA format ,one of several documentation formats, you briefly identify the sources in the text of your paper, then give the full information in the Reference List at the end of the paper.

APA style requires both in-text citations and a reference list. For every in-text citation there should be a full citation in the reference list and vice versa.

When should we use APA style ?

APA style is primarily used in the social sciences, so if you're taking a psychology or sociology course, chances are you'll be expected to write papers in APA style.

But you need to know that in any paper that refers to other sources, you MUST cite these sources properly. Failure to do so could result in charges of plagiarism by your instructor.

The APA style includes:

Guidelines for the formatting of documents. The most important aspects of these guidelines for most academic writing are the formatting of the reference list and headings.

The APA style calls for three kinds of information to be included in in-text citations:

- The author's last name.
-The work's date of publication.
- The page number.

There are some other pints of APA citation style as follows:

1- Date: follows the author and is in parentheses.
2- Author's Name: author's last name is spelled out and the first name is reduced to initials.
3- Capitalization: only the first word of the title, the first word of a subtitle, and any proper nouns (like names) are capitalized. Everything else is lowercase. Also, the title is written in italics.
4- Source Page: is called a "References".
5- In-Text Citations: uses the last name of the author and the date.
6- Page number: use commas and, if a page is mentioned, uses p. and pp.

Formatting APA Style:

Title Page, Running Head, and Page Numbers. Your paper should include a title page with these items:

1- A shortened version of your title, flush left, in all capital letters, labeled Running head.

2- A page number, flush right.

3- Your full title, centered.

4- Your name and college affiliation double-spaced and centered below the title.

A researcher can cite:

1- Books

2- Journals

3- Magazines

4- Websites

5- Newspapers

Finally, if you're writing a paper in APA style for a course, keep in mind that instructors may have specific guidelines of their own. When in doubt whether to use a particular aspect of APA style, always ask your instructor to clarify.