

APA Guide for Nursing

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A complete APA citation includes an **in-text citation** AND a **reference list entry** at the end of the paper.

In-Text Citations

Basic Format

With direct quotations, citations should follow the quotation:

(Smith, 2001, p. 745)

(Author's Last Name, year of publication, page number)

With paraphrases or summaries, citations should follow the borrowed information:

(Smith, 2001)

(Author's Last Name, year of publication)

In APA, it is not required to produce page numbers for paraphrases and summaries but encouraged as it will help the reader find the information in longer works. Some professors prefer that you include page numbers. If unsure, confirm with your professor.

Multiple Authors

Two authors: (Smith & Hill, 2001)

(Author 1 Last Name & Author 2 Last Name, year of publication)

Three to More authors: (Smith et al., 2001)

(Author 1 et al., year of publication)

List only the first author's name followed by "et al." in every citation. When citing multiple publications that have similar groups of authors, you might need to include more names in the in-text citation to avoid any ambiguity.

Citing to avoid Ambiguity: (Smith, Hill, Jones, et al., 2001)

(Smith, Hill, Jones, Wu, et al., 2001)

(Smith, Hill Jones, DaCosta et al., 2001)

We can see the difference between the two references above by listing out names until it is clear that these citations represent separate publications.

Without a known author:

(Canadian Textbook of Medical-Surgical Nursing Third Edition, 2001)
(Title of Book/Report, year of publication)

("Concepts and Challenges in Patient Management," 2001)
(“Title of Web Page/Article/Chapter,” year of publication)

Titles of books and reports are italicized.

Titles of articles, chapters and web pages are put in quotation marks.

Indirect Sources

When citing a source that is within another source, citations should follow the format below:

A study by Smith (2019, as cited as cited in Johnson & Klein, 2021) stated that patient outcomes improved under the new hygiene protocols.

In the above example, the information from Smith’s study is taken from an article written by Johnson and Klein. In this case, you put the original source (Smith, 2019) in your in-text citation. Since you did not read Smith’s study, you would include only Johnson and Klein in your References list.

Sources without Page Numbers

When citing a source that does not have page numbers, include information that will allow your reader to find the information you are using. Examples of such information are **paragraph numbers** (count paragraphs from the beginning of the document or use the paragraph number provided in the source) or a **heading plus a paragraph number**.

(Smith, 2001, para. 6)

(Smith, 2001, Geographical background, para. 7)

Many electronic sources do not contain page numbers. PDF documents normally show the original page numbers, which can be included in the citation.

Unknown Date

When citing a source that does not have a publication date, citations should follow the format below:

(Smith, n.d.)

Organizational Author

Many of your sources may be written by an organization or a government agency. Use this information as the author in your citations.

In the body of your text: According to the Canadian Nurses Association's *Code of Ethics for Registered Nurses* (2008), ethical practices to ensure client health also include issues of social justice.

In-text citation: (Canadian Nurses Association, 2008)

Some organizations have a well-known abbreviation (CNO, for example). Input the full name into the citation the first time, then use the abbreviation in subsequent citations. Avoid abbreviations from multiple organizations whose abbreviations are the same to avoid ambiguity.

First Citation: (World Health Organization [WHO], 2001)

Second Citation: (WHO, 2001)

When (narratively) mentioning an organization with a well-known acronym for the first time in a paper, the organization should first be mentioned in full followed by the acronym in parenthesis immediately after.

In the body of your text: According to the World Health Organization (WHO),

Reference List Examples¹

The following are common examples of sources you may use in your nursing research and assignments.

Class Handouts with Author Information (Paper Form):

Collier, J. (2016). *Nursing diagnosis example* [Class handout]. Department of Nursing, George Brown College, Toronto, Ontario.

Professor's Last Name, First Initial. (year of publication). *Title of handout* [Class handout]. Academic Department, Institution, City, Province.

Class Handouts without Author Information (Paper Form):

The circulatory system [Class handout]. (2017). Department of Nursing, George Brown College, Toronto, Ontario.

Title of handout [Class handout]. (year of publication). Name of Department, Name of School, City, Province.

Course Material / Lecture Slides through Blackboard:

Kendall, P. (2017). *The respiratory system* [PowerPoint slides]. George Brown Blackboard. <https://bb-gbc.blackboard.com/>

Professor's Last Name, First Initial. (year of publication). *Title of file* [File format].

Website Name. URL

(File format can be a "PDF", "PPT", "DOCX", etc.)

¹ Note: This guide does not contain an exhaustive list of reference types and examples. If you require a different type of reference (i.e. clinical practice references), refer to the [APA Style website](#) or book an appointment at the TLC.

Academic Articles:

Dedrick, R., Sinkowitz-Cochran, R., Cunningham, C., Muder, R. Perrieah, P., Cardo, D., & Jernigan, J. (2007). Hand hygiene practices after brief encounters with patients: An important opportunity for prevention. *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology*, 28(3), 341–345. <https://doi:10.1086/510789>

Author's Last Name, First Initial. (year of publication). Title of article. *Title of Periodical*, volume number(issue number), pages. DOI [or URL if applicable]

Documents on a Website of an Organization (e.g. Nursing Practice Standards):

College of Nurses of Ontario. (2002). *Practice standard: Ethics*.

https://www.cno.org/globalassets/docs/prac/41034_ethics.pdf

Name of Association. (year of publication). *Title of document or page: Subtitle (if any)*.

URL

Reference Material (e.g. Drug Guides, Medical Dictionaries):

Drug Guides

Vallerand, A. H., Sanoski, C. A., & Quiring, C. (2019). *Davis's drug guide for nurses* (16th ed.). F. A. Davis Company.

Author's Last Name, First Initial. (year of publication). *Title of work* (# ed.). Publisher.

DOI/URL if applicable

Infographic:

Ergotron. (n.d.). *Nursing challenges and changes* [Infographic].

<https://www.ergotron.com/en-ca/support/resource-library/infographics/nursing-challenges-and-changes>

Author or group author. (year of publication). *Title of work* [Infographic]. URL

Online Dictionaries:

Medical Dictionary Online. (n.d.). Urticaria. In *Medical Dictionary Online*. Retrieved June 8, 2021, from <https://www.online-medical-dictionary.org/definitions-u/urticaria.html>

Author or group author. (date). Term. In *Name of Dictionary*. Retrieved Month day, year, from URL

Government Documents (Print and Online):

Ontario Ministry of Health. (1994). *Selected findings from the mental health supplement of the Ontario Health Survey*. Queen's Printer for Ontario.

Government agency. (year of publication). *Title of report or document*. (Report number—if applicable). Place of publication: Publisher.

Health Canada. (2012). *About primary health care: What is primary health care?*

Retrieved from Government of Canada website: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hcs-sss/prim/about-apos-eng.php>

Government agency. (year of publication). *Title of report or document*. (Report number—if applicable). Publisher. URL

YouTube:

Above The Noise. (2021, April 14). *What if your parents don't want you to get*

vaccinated? [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=snxA2vXpstU>

Uploader. (Date). *Title of video* [Video]. YouTube. URL

The uploader of a Youtube video is not necessarily the author or the person/group that created video. If the uploader is the author but their channel name is different, you should do it as follows:

Stevens, M. [Vsauce]. (2014, May 19). *Why don't we all have cancer?* [Video].

YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qja4z1HGDQo>

Examples of in-text citations would be: (Above The Noise, 2021) and (Stevens, 2014)

Special Formatting

You are encouraged to view sample papers on the [APA website](#).

Paper Setup

Your paper should be set up in the following way (if your instructor requires all these components), and each section should start on a new page:

- Title page
- Abstract
- Text
- References
- Footnotes
- Tables
- Figures
- Appendices

Font

Sans Serif: Calibri, Arial (Size 11)

Serif: Times New Roman, Georgia (Size 12)

Line Spacing

Your essay should be double-spaced. Do not add extra space before or after paragraphs.

Margins

Use 1-inch/2.54cm margins around the page.

Paragraphing

Use left-alignment when writing an essay. The justified setting should not be used. The first line of each paragraph should be indented 0.5-inch/1.27cm.

Capitalization and Italics in APA Style

APA has **two capitalization methods**: title case (in which most words are capitalized) and sentence case (in which the first word is capitalized, and the rest are lowercase, except proper nouns).

APA uses **title case** for the following:

- Reference titles (e.g., book titles, articles titles) in the text of your paper
- Periodical titles
- Headings at Level 1 and 2
- The title of your own paper and named sections (e.g., Introduction, Method, Reference List)

APA uses **sentence case** for the following:

- Titles of references in your Reference List
- Headings at Level 3, 4, and 5

Use **italics** for the titles of books, periodicals, films/videos/TV shows, and periodical volume numbers in reference lists.

Sample Reference List

References

Canadian Nurses Association. (2017). *Code of ethics for registered nurses*.

<https://www.cna-aiic.ca/~media/cna/page-content/pdf-en/code-of-ethics-2017-edition-secure-interactive>

College of Nurses of Ontario. (2014). *Become a nurse*. <https://www.cno.org/en/become-a-nurse/>

Dedrick, R., Sinkowitz-Cochran, R., Cunningham, C., Muder, R. Perrieh, P., Cardo, D., & Jernigan, J. (2007). Hand hygiene practices after brief encounters with patients: An important opportunity for prevention. *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology*, 28(3), 341–345. <https://doi:10.1086/510789>

Health Canada. (2012). *About primary health care: What is primary health care?*

Retrieved from Government of Canada website: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hcs-sss/prim/about-apropos-eng.php>

Medical Dictionary Online. (n.d.). Urticaria. In *Medical Dictionary Online*. Retrieved June 8, 2021, from <https://www.online-medical-dictionary.org/definitions-u/urticaria.html>

Vallerand, A. H., Sanoski, C. A., & Quiring, C. (2019). *Davis's drug guide for nurses* (16th ed.). F. A. Davis Company.

Reference Page Mini Checklist

- Title “**References**” centered and bolded at the top of page
- References are presented in alphabetical order
- References with same authors ordered by date
- References are formatted with a hanging indent
- Punctuation checked for appropriate placement and spacing
- Italics used appropriately
- Capitals used appropriately
- References double-checked against 7th edition of APA guide