This page gives basic guidelines for formatting the reference list at the end of a standard APA research paper. Most sources follow fairly straightforward rules. However, because **sources obtained from academic journals**carry special weight in research writing, these sources **are subject to special rules**. Thus, this page presents basic guidelines for citing academic journals separate from its "ordinary" basic guidelines. This distinction is made clear below.

**Note:**Because the information on this page pertains to virtually all citations, we've highlighted one important difference between APA 6 and APA 7 with an underlined note written in red.

**Formatting a Reference List**

Your reference list should appear at the end of your paper. It provides the information necessary for a reader to locate and retrieve any source you cite in the body of the paper. Each source you cite in the paper must appear in your reference list; likewise, each entry in the reference list must be cited in your text.

Your references should begin on a new page separate from the text of the essay; label this page "References" in bold, centered at the top of the page (do NOT underline or use quotation marks for the title). All text should be double-spaced just like the rest of your essay.

**Basic Rules for Most Sources**

* All lines after the first line of each entry in your reference list should be indented one-half inch from the left margin. This is called hanging indentation.
* All authors' names should be inverted (i.e., last names should be provided first).
* Authors' first and middle names should be written as initials.
  + For example, the reference entry for a source written by Jane Marie Smith would begin with "Smith, J. M."
  + If a middle name isn't available, just initialize the author's first name: "Smith, J."
* Give the last name and first/middle initials for all authors of a particular work up to and including 20 authors (this is a new rule, as APA 6 only required the first six authors). Separate each author’s initials from the next author in the list with a comma. Use an ampersand (&) before the last author’s name. If there are 21 or more authors, use an ellipsis (but no ampersand) after the 19th author, and then add the final author’s name.
* Reference list entries should be alphabetized by the last name of the first author of each work.
* For multiple articles by the same author, or authors listed in the same order, list the entries in chronological order, from earliest to most recent.
* When referring to the titles of **books, chapters, articles, reports, webpages,**or other sources, capitalize only the first letter of the first word of the title and subtitle, the first word after a colon or a dash in the title, and proper nouns.
  + Note again that the titles of academic journals are subject to special rules. See section below.
* Italicize titles of longer works (e.g., books, edited collections, names of newspapers, and so on).
* Do not italicize, underline, or put quotes around the titles of shorter works such as chapters in books or essays in edited collections.

**Basic Rules for Articles in Academic Journals**

* Present journal titles in full.
* Italicize journal titles.
* Maintain any nonstandard punctuation and capitalization that is used by the journal in its title.
  + For example, you should use ***[PhiloSOPHIA](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PhiloSOPHIA)*** instead of *Philosophia,*or *Past & Present* instead of *Past and Present.*
* Capitalize **all major words**in the **titles of journals**. Note that this differs from the rule for titling other common sources (like books, reports, webpages, and so on) described above.
  + This distinction is based on the type of source being cited. Academic journal titles have all major words capitalized, while other sources' titles do not.
* Capitalize **the first word of the titles and subtitles of** **journal articles**, as well as the **first word after a colon or a dash**in the title, and **any proper nouns**.
* Do not italicize or underline the article title.
* Do not enclose the article title in quotes.
  + So, for example, if you need to cite an article titled "Deep Blue: The Mysteries of the Marianas Trench" that was published in the journal *Oceanographic Study: A Peer-Reviewed Publication,*you would write the article title as follows:
    - Deep blue: The mysteries of the Marianas Trench.
  + ...but you would write the journal title as follows:
    - *Oceanographic Study: A Peer-Reviewed Publication*

**Please note:**While the APA manual provides examples of how to cite common types of sources, it does not cover all conceivable sources. If you must cite a source that APA does not address, the APA suggests finding an example that is similar to your source and using that format. For more information, see page 282 of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 7th ed.