

APA FORMAT AND DOCUMENTATION

APA stands for American Psychological Association (www.apa.org)

APA format:

- is used primarily in the social sciences, but also in hard sciences (like biology)
- focuses on age and currency of research in a particular field
- uses in-text parenthetical citations as well as a References page
- typically requires a cover page
- is many times coupled with an abstract
- can use section headings throughout the paper
- relies mainly on **paraphrase** rather than **quotation**

Examples of APA in-text citations:

Officials at the University of Delaware thought that letting parents know when students violate regulations on alcohol use would alter students' drinking habits (Reisberg, 1998).

According to Baxter (1983), if a person has a low self-monitor, then he/she tends to pay more attention to his/her attitudes, rather than to the ways others might expect him/her to behave.

A team is defined as "a small number of people with complementary skills who are committed to a common purpose, performance goals, and approach for which they hold themselves mutually accountable" (Katzenbach & Smith, 1993, p. 45).

Cogdill, Fanderclai, Kilborn, and Williams (2001) argue that "making backchannel overtly available for study would require making its presence and content visible and its content persist, affecting the nature of the backchannel and raising social and ethical issues" (p. 109).

Hypertext significantly changes the process of information retrieval (Bolter, 2001; Bush, 1945; Landow, 1997).

Notice the prominence of the date of publication in APA references. Also notice the use of a comma in the reference.

Differences between APA and MLA format:

- MLA is used primarily in English and sometimes the other Humanities
- MLA focuses on print texts (like novels and short stories)
- MLA uses page numbers in parenthetical citations
- MLA does not use commas in a parenthetical citation
- MLA uses a Works Cited page while APA uses a References page
- APA uses cover pages while MLA only has a header on the first page of an essay
- MLA uses the last name for page numbers while APA uses a "Running Head"
- MLA never uses section headings in an essay

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