REFERENCING THE WEB: A QUICK GUIDE TO APA STYLE


Format for Citations in the Body of Your Paper

The APA style requires that the author’s name and the date of the original publication be given as information in the body of the paper. Only direct quotations require page numbers. If the article appeared in print first, list those page numbers if possible, even if you read the material online. In the body of your paper it would look like this:

Vincent Kiernan (1999, December 17) reported that only participants in the first group....

Your References page will give this listing:


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The rationale for the reference list is to provide the details so that the reader can read your source if desired. However, there are times when you will give the complete information for your source in your paper and no additional citation will be required in the reference list. One instance of this is private communications.

Personal Communications

Private exchanges cannot be reviewed by your reader, and thus, should not be included in the reference list. In the body of your paper refer to information from an e-mail, letter, conversation, or interview as a personal communication. Use the phrase “personal communication” with the date in parentheses after the name.
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(See Kiernan reference for example)

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