

# ASA Citation Quick Reference

## In-Text Citation Format

### Basic Author-Date Format

**One author:** - (Smith 2020) - Smith (2020) argues...

**Two authors:** - (Smith and Jones 2020) - Smith and Jones (2020) found...

**Three or more authors:** - (Smith et al. 2020) - Smith et al. (2020) demonstrate...

### With Page Numbers

**Direct quote:** - (Smith 2020:45) - Smith (2020:45-47) states, "quote here."

**Specific page reference:** - (Jones 2019:12)

### Special Situations

**Multiple works by same author:** - (Smith 2018, 2020)

**Multiple different authors:** - (Brown 2021; Smith 2020; Jones 2019)

**Same author, same year:** - (Smith 2020a, 2020b)

**No author:** - ("Article Title" 2020)

**No date:** - (Smith n.d.)

**Secondary source:** - (Brown 2015, cited in Smith 2020)

**Organization as author:** - (American Sociological Association 2023)

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## Reference List Entries

### Books

**Single author:** Weber, Max. 1978. *Economy and Society*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

**Two authors:** Marx, Karl and Friedrich Engels. 1848. *The Communist Manifesto*. London: Penguin Books.

**Three or more authors:** Collins, Patricia Hill, Sirma Bilge, and Kimberlé Crenshaw. 2020. *Intersectionality*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

**Edited book:** Goffman, Erving, editor. 1997. *The Goffman Reader*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

**Chapter in edited book:** Bourdieu, Pierre. 1986. "The Forms of Capital." Pp. 241-58 in *Handbook of Theory and Research for the Sociology of Education*, edited by J. Richardson. New York: Greenwood Press.

**Edition other than first:** Ritzer, George. 2015. *Introduction to Sociology*. 2nd ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

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## Journal Articles

**Print journal:** Smith, Dorothy E. 1987. "Women's Perspective as a Radical Critique of Sociology." *Sociological Inquiry* 44(1):1-13.

**Online journal with DOI:** Brown, Michael K. 2003. "Whitewashing Race: The Myth of a Color-Blind Society." *American Sociological Review* 68(2):279-81. doi:10.2307/1519770.

**Journal article retrieved online:** Wilson, William Julius. 2020. "The Impact of Inequality on Urban Communities." *Urban Studies* 57(8):1234-56. Retrieved November 27, 2025 (<https://journals.sagepub.com>).

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## Online Sources

**Website article with author:** Author, Jane. 2023. "Article Title." *Website Name*. Retrieved November 27, 2025 (<https://www.example.com>).

**Website article without author:** "Title of Article." 2023. *Website Name*. Retrieved November 27, 2025 (<https://www.example.com>).

**Organizational website:** American Sociological Association. 2023. "ASA Style Guide." Retrieved November 27, 2025 (<https://www.asanet.org>).

**Blog post:** Smith, John. 2023. "Post Title." *Blog Name*, November 15. Retrieved November 27, 2025 (<https://www.blogsite.com>).

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## Other Sources

**Newspaper article:** Jones, Sarah. 2023. "Headline Here." *The New York Times*, November 20, pp. A1, A3.

**Magazine article:** Brown, Robert. 2023. "Article Title." *Time Magazine*, December 5, pp. 45-50.

**Dissertation:** Johnson, Emily. 2022. "Dissertation Title." Ph.D. dissertation, Department of Sociology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

**Government document:** U.S. Census Bureau. 2020. *Census 2020 Summary File*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

**Conference paper:** Williams, Lisa. 2023. "Paper Title." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, August 8, Philadelphia, PA.

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## Key ASA Citation Rules

- ✓ **Alphabetize** references by author's last name
  - ✓ **Hanging indent** for all reference entries (second line onwards indented)
  - ✓ **Italicize** book titles and journal names
  - ✓ **Use quotation marks** for article and chapter titles
  - ✓ **Author-date format** in text and references
  - ✓ **Full first names** not used (initials only in some cases)
  - ✓ **Publisher location** required for books
  - ✓ **DOI or URL** for online sources when available
  - ✓ **Retrieval date** required for websites
  - ✓ **Page numbers** use "Pp." for multiple pages, "P." for single page
  - ✓ **"et al."** used for 3+ authors in text (but list all in references)
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## Reference List Formatting

**Basic Setup:** - New page after main text - Title: **REFERENCES** (centered, bold, uppercase) - Entries alphabetized by author surname - Hanging indent (0.5 inches) - Double-spaced throughout - No extra spaces between entries

**Multiple works by same author:** - Arrange chronologically (oldest first) - Repeat author name for each entry - Use letter suffixes for same year (2020a, 2020b)

**Example:**

Smith, John. 2018. *\*First Book Title\**. New York: Publisher.  
Smith, John. 2020a. "First Article." *\*Journal Name\** 10(2):45-60.  
Smith, John. 2020b. "Second Article." *\*Journal Name\** 11(3):120-35.

**Quick Format Guide**

Element	Format
Book title	<i>Italicized</i>
Journal name	<i>Italicized</i>
Article title	"In quotes"
Chapter title	"In quotes"
Author names	Last name, First name
Date	Year only
Page numbers	Use colon in citations (:45)
Page range in refs	Use hyphen (45-60)
Volume/Issue	Volume(Issue):Pages

**Common Mistakes to Avoid**

- ❑ Using "p." or "pp." in in-text citations → Use colon: (Smith 2020:45)
- ❑ Using "&" between authors → Use "and": Smith and Jones
- ❑ Forgetting retrieval date for websites → Always include
- ❑ Underlining instead of italicizing → Always italicize
- ❑ Using first initials in text → Use full last name only
- ❑ Adding extra punctuation in citations → Follow format exactly
- ❑ Not alphabetizing references → Must be in alphabetical order

**Last Updated:** November 2024  
**Source:** American Sociological Association Style Guide (6th Edition)