

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)

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.

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>).

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>).

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.

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)