

APA Citation Guide for Lab Reports (7th Edition)

(Quick Reference for Students in Science Courses)

1. General APA Formatting Rules

- **Font:** 12-pt Times New Roman, 11-pt Calibri, or 11-pt Arial
- **Spacing:** Double-spaced throughout
- **Margins:** 1 inch on all sides
- **Page Numbers:** Top right corner
- **Indentation:** First line of every paragraph indented 0.5 in
- **Reference List:** Begins on a new page, titled **References** (bold and centered)

2. In-Text Citations

APA uses the **author–date** system.

Basic Format

- **Narrative citation:** *Smith (2020) found that...*
- **Parenthetical citation:** *(Smith, 2020)*

Two Authors

- Narrative: *Smith and Lee (2021)*
- Parenthetical: *(Smith & Lee, 2021)*

Three or More Authors

- Narrative: *Smith et al. (2019)*
- Parenthetical: *(Smith et al., 2019)*

Direct Quotes

Include page number:

- Narrative: *Smith (2019) stated that “...” (p. 14).*
- Parenthetical: *(Smith, 2019, p. 14)*

Multiple Sources

Separate with semicolons:

- *(Smith, 2019; Lee, 2021; Johnson et al., 2023)*

3. Reference List Formatting

- Alphabetical order by author last name
- Hanging indent: first line left, all following lines indented
- Double-spaced
- Authors listed as: Last name, Initial(s).
- Use **(Year)**. after the authors
- Titles of works are in **sentence case** (only first word and proper nouns capitalized)
- Journal titles are **italicized** and in **title case**
- Include DOI when available

4. How to Cite Common Sources

A. Journal Article (With DOI)

Format:

Author, A. A., & Author, B. B. (Year). Title of article. *Title of Journal*, volume(issue), pages.
<https://doi.org/xxxx>

Example:

Smith, J. K., & Lee, R. T. (2021). Enzyme activity under varying pH conditions. *Journal of Biochemical Research*, 45(2), 112–120. <https://doi.org/10.1000/jbr.2021.45.2.112>

B. Journal Article (No DOI)

Format:

Author, A. A. (Year). Title of article. *Title of Journal*, volume(issue), pages.

Example:

Campbell, T. R. (2019). Effects of temperature on yeast metabolism. *Microbiology Letters*, 18(3), 200–209.

C. Book

Format:

Author, A. A. (Year). *Title of book*. Publisher.

Example:

Freeman, S. (2020). *Biological science*. Pearson.

D. Edited Book Chapter

Format:

Author, A. A. (Year). Title of chapter. In B. B. Editor & C. C. Editor (Eds.), *Book title* (pp. xx-xx). Publisher.

Example:

Holmes, P. R. (2018). Molecular genetics of bacteria. In J. Weaver (Ed.), *Modern microbiology* (pp. 57–89). Academic Press.

E. Website

Format:

Author, A. A. (Year, Month Day). Title of page. Site Name. URL

Example:

National Institute of Health. (2022, April 5). Understanding human genetics. NIH.
<https://www.nih.gov/genetics>

F. Government or Organizational Report

Format:

Organization Name. (Year). *Title of report*. Publisher. URL

Example:

World Health Organization. (2021). *Global health statistics 2021*. WHO.
<https://www.who.int/ghs2021>

G. Lab Manual (Published)

Format:

Author, A. A. (Year). *Title of manual* (edition). Publisher.

Example:

Brown, R., & Miller, G. (2020). *General chemistry laboratory manual* (3rd ed.). McGraw-Hill.

H. Lab Manual (Instructor-Prepared or Unpublished)

Format:

Instructor, A. A. (Year). *Title of lab manual*. Department Name, University Name.

Example:

Lopez, S. (2023). *Biology 201 laboratory manual*. Department of Biology, Western University.

I. Lecture Notes or Slides**Format:**

Author, A. A. (Year). *Title of lecture* [PowerPoint slides]. Learning platform. URL (if public)

Example:

Chen, L. (2021). *Intro to spectroscopy* [PowerPoint slides]. Canvas.

J. Online Video (YouTube, etc.)**Format:**

Author, A. A. [Screen name]. (Year, Month Day). *Title of video* [Video]. Platform. URL

Example:

Khan Academy. (2018, July 7). *Enzymes and activation energy* [Video]. YouTube.
<https://youtube.com/example>

K. Dataset**Format:**

Author, A. A. (Year). *Title of dataset* (Version) [Data set]. Publisher. URL

Example:

Environmental Protection Agency. (2022). *Air quality measurements dataset (v3.1)* [Data set]. EPA.
<https://www.epa.gov/data>

5. Citing Sources in Lab Reports

Most common places you'll cite sources:

- Introduction (background information, theory)
- Discussion (comparison with literature)
- Methods (if using a published protocol)
- Figures and tables (if adapted from another source)

Figure/Table Citation Format

If you reproduce or adapt a figure:

Figure adapted from:

Smith, J. (2020). *Journal Name*, 40(3), 150–160.

6. Sample Reference List (APA 7)

References

Brown, R., & Miller, G. (2020). *General chemistry laboratory manual* (3rd ed.). McGraw-Hill.

Campbell, T. R. (2019). Effects of temperature on yeast metabolism. *Microbiology Letters*, 18(3), 200–209.

National Institute of Health. (2022, April 5). Understanding human genetics. NIH. <https://www.nih.gov/genetics>

Smith, J. K., & Lee, R. T. (2021). Enzyme activity under varying pH conditions. *Journal of Biochemical Research*, 45(2), 112–120. <https://doi.org/10.1000/jbr.2021.45.2.112>

7. Quick Tips

- Always double-check capitalization rules
- Use DOI links whenever possible
- Do not list references you didn't cite
- Avoid outdated sources unless historically necessary
- Keep formatting consistent throughout