



Introduction to American Sociological Association (ASA) Style, 7th Edition (Just Updated)

ASA STYLE: WHAT IS IT?

“ASA Style” refers to the publication style of the American Sociological Association. This handout summarizes citation formatting in Sociology (not manuscript formatting).

REFERENCES AND CITATIONS IN TEXT: The following are examples of reference list citation and text citations.

- A **reference** list follows the text in a separate section headed “References.” References should be **double-spaced** and **listed in alphabetical order**.
- **Citation in text** is within the body of the essay.

If authors’ names are not explicitly mentioned in the text, the writer should include a citation of the author’s name and date of publication, followed by a **colon** and the page number (if relevant). NO space between colon and pages.

Because publishing or even presenting research has become increasingly difficult, research posters are not only “one of the most common ways of presenting research” but also one of the most important ways novice and experienced professionals in social science and science fields learn, network, and collaborate in their research communities (Silvia, Delaney, and Marcovitch 2007:117).

If authors are included in the text, follow the authors with the year of publication.

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Note: Always write out all authors in the reference list. For in text citation, you can use “et al.” after the first author, when you have four or more authors. For three authors, write out all the author’s last names in the first text citation; then use the first author’s last name and “et al.”

Citing Numbers: According to the ASA Style Guide, 7th edition: “In text citations and

reference lists, . . . page references should be eliding numbers using the following rules” (39).

- Use all digits for pages numbered less than 100
Example: 42-43, 92-98.
- For page ranges starting on pages numbered 100 or multiples of 100, use all digits:
Example: 100-108, 1300-1325.

However:

- ASA writes: “For page ranges starting on pages numbered 110 to 199 (or 210 through 299, etc.), **use the changed part only.**”

<i>Correct</i>	<i>Incorrect</i>
pp. 364- 65	pp. 364-365
pp. 209- 10	pp. 209-210

- For page ranges starting on pages numbered 110-199, 210-299, etc., **use two digits unless more are needed to include all changed parts.**

<i>Correct</i>	<i>Incorrect</i>
pp. 421- 28	pp. 421-428
pp. 596- 628	pp. 596-28
pp. 1301- 25	pp. 1301-1325
pp. 1151- 59	pp. 1151-1159
pp. 1394- 414	pp. 1394-1414

Book & Edited Book

Last Name, First Name. (include “ed.” or “eds.” if the editor is the focus). Year of Publication. “If Applicable Provide Title of Essays in Book Chapter: Capitalize Proper Nouns.” *Italicized Title of Longer Works or Resource Such as Book Title*. Location: Publisher. [NOTE: When you have more than one author, the authors’ names following the first author is not inverted]

Author of a book

Ngai, Mae M. 2004. *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

(Ngai 2004)

Lee, W.O. Grossman, David L., Kerry J. Kennedy, and Gregory P. Fairbrother, eds. 2004. *Citizenship Education in Asia and the Pacific: Concepts and Issues*. New York: Springer Science+Business Media.

(Lee et al. 2004:3)

Chapter in an edited volume.

Brown, Sandy, and Christy Getz. 2011. "Farmworker Food Insecurity and the Production of Hunger in California." Pp. 121-46 in *Cultivating Food Justice: Race, Class, and Sustainability*, edited by A.H. Alkon and J. Agyeman. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

(Brown and Getz 2011)

E-Books

Wimberly, George L. 2015. *LGBTQ Issues in Education: Advancing a Research Agenda*. Washington, D.C.: American Educational Research Association.
<https://ebooks.aera.net/catalog/book/lgbtq-issues-education-advancing-research-agenda>.

Multivolume book

Last Name, First Name. (include "ed." or "eds." if the editor is the focus). Year of Publication. *Italicized Title of Series*. Vol. #, *Italicized Title of Volume*. Location: Publisher.

Gulla, Bob, ed. 2006. *Greenwood Encyclopedia of the History of Rock*. Vol. 6, *The Grunge and Post-Grunge Years, 1991-2005*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press.

(Gulla 2006)

Article in Print Journal or Online Journal

Last Name, First Name. Year of publication. "Title of Article." *Italicized Title of Journal*. Volume number (issue number): page or pages. Access date ["required only for online sources if the date for source is not available and cannot be determined from the source," ASA Manual, p. 105]

USE "DOI": If found in an online journal, provide DOI if required by the publisher or your

professor (some faculty may not require you to provide DOI so always ask). If you need to provide a link and there is no DOI, provide a URL surrounded by parentheses. Period follows last parenthesis.

Notice:

- No space between volume and issue or between colon and page numbers.
- Comma after the first name for two authors in references.
- No period after retrieval date for URL addresses.
- Period follows URL or DOI.
- When DOI is included, it should be cut and pasted from the article.
- DOI is cited with reference to “doi,” all lowercase, followed by colon, number, and period:
doi

Bergesen, Albert, and Max Herman. 1998. “Immigration, Race, and Riot: The 1992 Los Angeles Uprising.” *American Sociological Review* 63(1):39-54.
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2657476>.

(Bergesen and Herman 1998)

Kalleberg, Arne L., Barbara F. Reskin, and Ken Hudson. 2000. “Bad Jobs in America: Standard and Nonstandard Employment Relations and Job Quality in the United States.” *American Sociological Review* 65(2):256-78. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2657440>.

(Kalleberg, Reskin, and Hudson 2000:158)

DiLullo, Camille, Patricia McGee, and Richard M Kriebel. 2011. “Demystifying the Millennial Student: A Reassessment in Measures of Character and Engagement in Professional Education.” *Anatomical Sciences Education* 4(4):214-26. doi:10.1002/ase.240.

(DiLullo, McGee, and Kriebel 2011)

Article in Newspaper

Vargas, Jose Antonio. 2011. “My Life as an Undocumented Immigrant.” *The New York Times Magazine*, June 22. http://www.nytimes.com/2011/06/26/magazine/my-life-as-an-undocumented-immigrant.html?_r=0.

(Vargas 2011)

Citing Other Resources

According to ASA: “Traditionally, references include authorship, date of publication, title of publication, publisher location, as well as volume number and page numbers, if applicable.

However, with webpages, this information is not always known, not easily identifiable, or not applicable.”

With online resources in which **locations** are known (such as material from the American Sociological Association), the location is included. With the example of IBM (a corporation with multiple locations), the location is unknown and thus left out.

Document/Report from Website

Last Name, First Name (or name of organization if author is unknown). Year of Publication. “Title of Report or Article: Capitalize Proper Nouns.” Sponsoring organization, if different from author. Publication month, day (if available). Location: Publisher (if any). Access date if no date of publication. URL.

Last Name, First Name (or name of organization if author is unknown). Year of Publication. “Title of Report or Article: Capitalize Proper Nouns.” Sponsoring organization, if different from author. Publication month, day (if available). Location: Publisher (if any). Access date if no date of publication. URL.

WERA (World Education Research Association). n.d. “About WERA.” Accessed June 30, 2018. <https://wera.site-ym.com/?AboutWERA>.

(WERA, n.d.)

American Sociological Association. 2006. “Status Committees.” Washington, DC: American Sociological Association. <http://www.asanet.org/cs/root/leftnav/committees/committees>.

(ASA 2006)

IBM. 2007. “Education: Solutions and Open Technologies for K-12 Schools, Higher Education and Lifelong Learning.” <http://www-3.ibm.com/industries/education/index.jsp?re=ibmhpd>.

(IBM 2007)

Public documents

U.S. Congress. 1882. “An Act to Execute Certain Treaty Stipulations Relating to the Chinese, May 6, 1882.” *Our Documents: 100 Milestone Documents*. Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Administration. <https://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?doc=47>.

(Congress 1882)

Conference presentations, lectures, and posters

Lee, Sohui, and Cristal Gamez. 2022. "Multimodal Asynchronous Tutoring." Slideshow presented at the annual International Writing Center Association, Vancouver, BC, October 28.

Lenz, Daniel. 2022. "How to Read a Scientific Article." Workshop slideshow presented at the Writing & Multiliteracy Center, California State University Channel Islands, Camarillo, CA, March 13.

References and Dictionaries. Resources that are continuously updated like Wikipedia, include date and time last edited. When looking up a word, in a reference or dictionary, use "s.v." meaning "sub verbo" or "under the word."

Wikipedia, s.v. "Writing," last edited April 15, 2023, at 16:05 (UTC), <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Writing>.

Video

McPhee, Larkin. 2004. *Dying to Be Thin*. [DVD] Boston: WGBH Video.

(Larkin 2004)

Note: The ASA does not have a specific format for citing film or video recordings because video, audio and broadcast sources are generally cited only in the text or notes, not in the reference list.

Phone interview, entries, social media, email or text messages.

Note: The ASA does not have a specific format for citing interviews, e-mail messages, conversations and other personal communications because these sources are generally cited only in the text or notes, not in the reference list. If you must cite the source, use the example below. More examples are in the ASA manual.

Twitter

CSU Channel Islands (@csuci). 2023. "This weekend, the CSU Channel Islands University Chorus will sing with four other choirs in the Spring Choral Spectacular!" Twitter. April 19, 2:02 p.m. <https://twitter.com/csuci/status/1648794099288268802>.

7th Edition Recommendations on ASA Writing Style *NEW*

- Use the singular “they” as a generic pronoun to refer to a person of unspecified gender or when it is irrelevant to the context of the usage. You can also reword the sentence to avoid a pronoun or the use of the pronoun *they*.
- ASA recommends capitalizing terms for racial and ethnic categories (“Black” vs “black”; “White” vs “white”). They recommend not using the following terms: “Afro-American,” “Negro,” or “Oriental.”
- ASA style includes active voice in writing. Avoid passive voice unless absolutely necessary.
- In literature review, use past tense