

# APA Style Sheet for Online Sources

## Rio Grande Library

Citing online sources is similar to citing printed books, journals, or magazines, but also requires additional information. This guide will help you format your citations for articles found in online databases, electronic books, and websites.

Here are key points to remember:

- **For articles in databases:** In addition to the standard information (author, article name, journal name, volume and pages), you also need to provide the date you accessed the information and the name of the database.
- **Spacing, punctuation, and indenting:** Indent 5 spaces at the beginning of every line but the first.
- **Capitalization:** In any title (article, book, encyclopedia, journal, magazine, etc.) capitalize the first word, proper nouns, and the first word after a colon.
- Titles of books, journals, magazines, newspapers, etc.: Titles are *italicized*.
- If no author is given, place the title in the author position.
- For multiple authors, list the first 5 authors, last name and initials.
- **Reference page:** Double-space all entries.

Keep in mind that you may not be able to determine all elements for your electronic source, but the goal in citing is to clearly identify your source so that others may find it.

Here are generic templates, followed by specific examples for articles, encyclopedia entries, electronic books, journal, magazine, or newspaper articles from websites, and website articles. In the generic templates, parentheses are used to indicate material is in ( ). Parentheses are used for the date and issue number of a periodical. Brackets [ ] are used when specific information is to be substituted for the brackets.

### Article from Online Databases:

Author's last name, Initial(s). (Year of publication, month day). Article title: Capitalize first word, proper nouns, and word after colon if any. *Journal/ Magazine/ Newspaper title*, volume (issue #), page numbers. Retrieved [month day, year], from [name of database].

Bottum, J., & Anderson, R. (2008, November). Stem cells: A political history. *First Things: A Monthly Journal of Religion & Public Life*, 137, 98-106. Retrieved November 11, 2008, from Academic Search Complete database.

### Article in a Book from an Online Database:

Shannon, T. A. Embryonic stem cell research is unethical. In V. Wagner (Ed.), *Opposing Viewpoints: Biomedical Ethics*. Detroit: Greenhaven Press, 2008. Retrieved November 25, 2008, from Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center.

**Encyclopedia Article:**

Author's last name, Initial(s). (Copyright date of the electronic publication).

Article title: Capitalize first word, proper nouns, and word after colon

if any. In [*Encyclopedia name*]. Retrieved [month day, year], from [URL]

Homeland Security, Department of . (2002). In *Funk & Wagnalls New World Encyclopedia*. Retrieved June 1, 2005, from <http://search.epnet.com>

**Note:** If an entry has no author, place the title in the author position.

**Electronic Books (E-Books):**

Author's / Editor's last name, Initials. (Year of publication). *Title of e-book*.

Place of Publication: Publisher. Retrieved [month day, year], from [URL]

Brownson, M. (1998). "*Lone wolf*" *Gonzauillas, Texas ranger*. Norman, Okla.:

University of Oklahoma Press. Retrieved November 11, 2008, from

<http://www.netLibrary.com>

**Journal, Magazine, or Newspaper Article from Website:**

Author's last name, Initial(s). (Year, month day). Article title: Capitalize first word, proper nouns, and word after colon if any. *Title of journal, magazine, or newspaper*. Retrieved [month day, year], from [URL]

Hernandez, M.D. (2008, October 20). City to discuss medical-center plans. *El Paso Times*.

Retrieved November 11, 2008, from [www.elpasotimes.com](http://www.elpasotimes.com)

**Article from Website:**

Author's last name, Initial(s). (Year, Month day). *Document title or name of web page*. Retrieved [Month day, year], from [URL]

*Arthritis facts*. (2007, June 10). Retrieved December 8, 2008, from

<http://www.arthritis.org/facts.php>

You may need to find similar examples and modify them for your particular source. For more examples, refer to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 5 ed. (Ref BF76.7 P83 2001) or *A Writer's Reference* (6<sup>th</sup> ed.) by Diana Hacker (REF PE 1408 H27781 2007).

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