GENERAL

apa format 6th edition

Published: September 19, 2026 | Index ID: #-

APA Format 6th Edition: A Complete Guide for Academic Writing

When it comes to scholarly communication, a clear, consistent, and standardized format is essential. The American Psychological Association (APA) style has long been the gold standard for writing in the social sciences, psychology, education, and many other fields. While the 7th edition of APA style has become the most recent standard, many instructors, journals, and institutions still require or prefer the 6th edition. This guide will walk you through every aspect of APA 6th edition formatting—from page layout and in-text citations to reference list entries and common pitfalls—so you can produce polished, professional papers that meet the expectations of your audience.

Why APA 6th Edition Still Matters

Although the 7th edition introduced several updates—such as the inclusion of singular “they” and new guidelines for digital object identifiers (DOIs)—the 6th edition remains widely used, especially in graduate programs and journals that have not yet transitioned. Mastering APA 6th edition ensures you can:

- Submit manuscripts to journals that still accept the 6th edition.
- Meet course requirements where the 6th edition is mandated.
- Build a strong foundation for future transition to APA 7th edition.
- Avoid common formatting errors that can reduce the credibility of your work.

Core Components of APA 6th Edition

APA 6th edition is organized into a series of structural elements that collectively create a uniform appearance and clear navigation. Below is an overview of the key components you’ll encounter:

1. Title Page
2. Abstract
3. Main Body
4. References
5. Tables and Figures

1. Title Page

The title page must contain the following, each centered and double-spaced:

- Title of the paper (bold, title case)
- Your name
- Institutional affiliation
- Course name and number (if applicable)
- Instructor’s name (if applicable)
- Due date (if applicable)

Unlike the 7th edition, APA 6th edition does not require a running head on the title page. However, if you are submitting to a journal, you may need to include a running head on subsequent pages.

2. Abstract

The abstract is a concise summary (150–250 words) of your study's purpose, methods, results, and conclusions. Key formatting rules:

- Begin on a new page after the title page.
- Center the word "Abstract" (bolded) at the top.
- Do not indent the first line of the abstract.
- Use double spacing throughout.

Some instructors may allow a "Keywords" section after the abstract; if so, list 3–5 keywords separated by commas.

3. Main Body

The main body contains your introduction, literature review, methods, results, discussion, and conclusion. Maintain double spacing, 1-inch margins, and a readable font (e.g., 12 point Times New Roman). Paragraphs should be indented 0.5 inches on the first line. Headings should follow the APA 6th edition style hierarchy:

- Level 1: Centered, Bold, Title Case
- Level 2: Flush left, Bold, Title Case
- Level 3: Flush left, Bold Italic, Title Case
- Level 4: Indented, Bold, Title Case, ending with a period.
- Level 5: Indented, Bold Italic, Title Case, ending with a period.

4. References

The reference list appears on a new page titled "References" (centered, bold). Entries are alphabetized by the first author's last name and formatted with a hanging indent (first line flush left, subsequent lines indented 0.5 inches). Key rules:

- Use double spacing.
- Include a period after the year in parentheses.
- Use italics for book and journal titles.
- Include DOI or URL if available.

5. Tables and Figures

Tables and figures are numbered consecutively (e.g., Table 1, Figure 1). Each should have a title in italics, placed above the table/figure. Captions should appear below the table/figure and provide enough information for the reader to understand the content without referring back to the text.

In-Text Citations: The Heart of APA 6th Edition

In-text citations link your claims to the reference list and give credit to original authors. APA 6th edition employs two primary citation styles: parenthetical and narrative.

Parenthetical Citations

When the author's name is not part of the narrative, you place both the author and year in parentheses:

(Smith, 2019)

Narrative Citations

When the author's name appears in the sentence, the year follows in parentheses:

Smith (2019) found that…

Multiple Authors

- Two authors: (Brown & Jones, 2018) or Brown & Jones (2018).
- Three or more authors: (Taylor et al., 2020) or Taylor et al. (2020).

No Author

Use the first few words of the title (in italics if it's a book) and the year:

("Effects of Sleep," 2017)

Direct Quotes

Include a page number after the year, separated by a comma:

(Garcia, 2015, p. 45)

For quotes longer than 40 words, use a block quote (indented 0.5 inches, no quotation marks).

Reference List Entries: A Step-by-Step Breakdown

Below are the most common source types with their respective formats. Use a hanging indent for each entry.

Books

Author, A. A. (Year). *Title of book: Subtitle if applicable.* Publisher.

Example: **Harlow, H. F. (1958). Patterns of social behavior in the infant rhesus monkey. Stanford University Press.**

Journal Articles

Author, A. A., & Author, B. B. (Year). Title of article. *Title of Journal,*volume number(issue number), pages. DOI or URL (if available).

Example: **Johnson, L., & Lee, M. (2012). Cognitive development in early childhood. Journal of Child Psychology, 45(3), 123 134. https://doi.org/10.1037/abc.2012.045**

Web Pages

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

Example: **American Psychological Association. (2020, March 12). APA style guide. APA.org. https://apastyle.org/**

Edited Books

Editor, E. E. (Ed.). (Year). *Title of book.* Publisher.

Example: **McLeod, J. (Ed.). (2015). Psychology: An introductory text. Pearson.**

Conference Proceedings

Author, A. A. (Year). Title of paper. In Editor(s) (Ed(s).), *Proceedings of the Conference Name*(pp. pages). Publisher. DOI or URL.

Common Mistakes and How to Avoid Them

Even experienced writers can fall into formatting traps. Below are frequent errors and quick fixes:

- Incorrect spacing: Remember double spacing for all text, including the reference list.
- Misplaced italics: Only book and journal titles are italicized, not article titles.
- Missing hanging indent: Each reference entry after the first line must be indented 0.5 inches.
- Wrong author order: Alphabetize by last name; for works with no author, alphabetize by title.
- Inconsistent citation style: Stick to either narrative or parenthetical throughout the paper.

Practical Tips for Writing with APA 6th Edition

1. Use a template: Many word processors offer APA 6th edition templates that automatically set margins, spacing, and heading styles.
2. Keep a style guide handy: The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th ed.) is the definitive source.
3. Double-check DOIs: They should be formatted as https://doi.org/xxxx rather than as a plain number.
4. Proofread for consistency: Ensure all in-text citations have corresponding reference entries.
5. Use reference management software: Tools like Zotero, EndNote, or Mendeley can export references in APA 6th edition format.

Transitioning from APA 6th to APA 7th Edition

If you're currently using APA 6th edition but anticipate moving to the 7th edition, consider the following differences:

- Running head is no longer required on the title page.
- Use they as a singular pronoun.
- DOIs are formatted as https://doi.org/xxxx without the "doi:" prefix.
- Reference entries no longer require the publisher location.
- Table and figure titles are no longer italicized.

Familiarizing yourself with these changes early can save time when you finally need to update your manuscript.

Useful Resources and Tools

Below are some reputable resources to help you master APA 6th edition:

Baca Juga (Artikel Terkait)

- **advanced engineering electromagnetics solution manual edition hardcover by balanis constantine a published by wiley**
  URL: http://denniswildberger.com/advanced-engineering-electromagnetics-solution-manual-edition-hardcover-by-balanis-constantine-a-published-by-wiley.pdf
- **advanced engineering electromagnetics solutions manual**
  URL: http://denniswildberger.com/advanced-engineering-electromagnetics-solutions-manual.pdf
- **advanced engineering electromagnetics wiley 1989 grading**
  URL: http://denniswildberger.com/advanced-engineering-electromagnetics-wiley-1989-grading.pdf
- **advanced engineering fluid mechanics by biswas**
  URL: http://denniswildberger.com/advanced-engineering-fluid-mechanics-by-biswas.pdf

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