APA is an Author-Date system, so each reference starts with the authors followed by the year of publication. The reference list should be in alphabetical order according to the first author for each entry.

The Basics

For every reference you need the following information:

>> Authors’ names
>> Year published
>> Title of the part
>> Title of the whole
>> Publication details

Publication Details

For a Book or part of a book:
>> Place of publication and name of publisher

For a Journal Article:
>> Volume number, issue number and page numbers (represented by ‘n’ in the example); the URL or DOI (if electronic)

For a Web Page
>> The URL

Pattern Examples:

Book:


Book Chapter:


Journal Article:


Web pages:

Author or Authoring Body. (Year). Title of page. Title of site (if relevant). Retrieved from http://www.exampleurl.gov.au

Reference Lists vs Bibliographies

Reference lists (or “works cited” lists) contain only the works that you have referred to in the text of your assignment. If you didn’t cite it in text, don’t put it in your reference list.

Bibliographies contain every work that contributed to your understanding — even if you didn’t cite it. Most assignments ask for a reference list, not a bibliography.