CITATION APA Basics

- 1. Create your References page before you start writing your essay.
 - 1.1. **Determine what type of source you are looking at.** This is the hardest and most important part of citation! For example, there are significant differences between television broadcasts, series, or episodes.
 - 1.2. **Use a style manual or style handbook** to create the references entry. No one memorizes the rules, especially since they are updated every few years to keep up with new technology. Instead, learn how to use the style manual.
 - 1.3. **Organize your list alphabetically.** If you have two authors with the same last name, look at their first names. If you have two sources by the same author, look at the title, and so on.
 - 1.4. **Format the list using hanging indents.** This indent style requires that the first line of the citation is left-aligned, but any additional lines are indented by ½ inch.
- 2. If you are working with a large number of sources, consider making an Annotated Bibliography.
- 3. Format your essay using APA document style.
- 4. Create in-text citations.
 - 4.1. The first time you reference any source, either with a direct quote or a paraphrase, you should use a signal phrase with the parenthetical citation to indicate the credibility of the source. For example, you might write: Cain and Burris (1999), noted scholars on transportation, argue that ... (Conclusions section, para. 2).
 - 4.2. After the first use of a source, you may choose between either signal phrases with parenthetical citation or only parenthetical citation for your in-text citations.
 - 4.3. To determine what appears in the in-text citation, use **the author's last names, year, and page or paragraph** from the References entry!
 - 4.4. For written sources, you will generally need to include a page or paragraph number in the parenthetical citation. While a signal phrase can include names, titles, or years, it generally cannot include a page/paragraph number. In that case, you could use a signal phrase to introduce the source and include parenthetical citation with the page/paragraph number.

Type	Works Cited	Parenthetical Citation
Website	Cain, A., & Burris, M. (1999, April). <i>Investigation of the use of mobile phones while driving</i> . Retrieved from http://www.cutr.usf.edu/pdf/mobile_phone.PDF	(Cain & Burris, 1999, Conclusions section para. 2).
Database Article	Eskritt, M., & McLeod, K. (2008). Children's note taking as a mnemonic tool. <i>Journal of Experimental Child Psychology</i> , 101, 52-74. doi:10.1016/jecp.2008.05.007.	(Eskritt & McLeod, 2008, p. 68).
TV Series	Fanning, D. (Executive producer). (2008). Frontline [Television series]. Boston, MA: WGBH.	(Fanning, 2008).
Film (DVD)	Guggenheim, D. (Director), & Bender, L. (Producer). (2006). An inconvenient truth [DVD]. United States: Paramount Home Entertainment.	(Guggenheim & Bender, 2006).
Book	McKenzi, F.R. (2008). Theory and practice with adolescents: An applied approach. Chicago, IL: Lyceum Books.	(McKenzi, 2008, p. 123).
Podcast (Online)	National Academies (Producer). (2007, June 6). Progress in preventing childhood obesity: How do we measure up? [Audio podcast]. <i>The sounds of science podcast</i> . Retrieved from http://media.nap.edu/podcasts/	(National Academies, 2007).
TV Broadcast	Pratt, C. (Executive producer). (2008, October 5). Face the nation [Television broadcast]. Washington, DC: CBS News.	(Pratt, 2008).
TV Episode	Smith, M. (Writer/producer). (2008). Heat [Television series episode]. In D. Fanning (Executive producer), <i>Frontline</i> . Boston, MA: WGBH.	(Smith, 2008).
Film (General)	Spurlock, M. (Director). (2004). Super size me [Motion picture]. Available from IDP Films, 1133 Broadway, Suite 926, New York, NY 10010.	(Spurlock, 2004).
Song	Thomas, G. (1996). Breath. On <i>Didgeridoo: Ancient sound of the future</i> [CD]. Oxnard, CA: Aquarius International Music.	(Thomas, 1996).
Art	Weber, J. (1992). <i>Toward freedom</i> [Outdoor mural]. Sherman Oaks, CA.	(Weber, 1992).
Ad	Xbox 360 [Advertisement]. (2007, February). <i>Wired</i> , 15(2), 71.	("Xbox 360", 1997).