APA: The Easy Way

APA reference citations are a cinch—if you follow a system. There are two easy ways to get them right.

EASY WAY 1: COPYCAT THE MODEL

Step 1: Identify the type of source you found: article on a web site, magazine article, journal article, newspaper article, eBook, etc.

Step 2: Go to a list of APA models/templates and pick the model that fits your source. An easy to use list of models is in UMUC's Library: https://sites.umuc.edu/library/libhow/apa_examples.cfm.

Step 3: Scroll down to "Reference List Examples" and click on the link that takes you to the model that matches your source.

Step 4: Follow the model exactly. If the model calls for information you don't have, leave out that part of the citation and go to the next part.

Step 5: Compare your finished citation to the model. Check for placement of periods and commas, and for the use of italics and parentheses.

You found a journal article with a DOI.	Torreggiani and Prison Overcrowding in Italy. Academic Journal. By: Favuzza, Federica. Human Rights Law Review. Mar2017, Vol. 17 Issue 1, p153-173. 21p. DOI: 10.1093/hrlr/ngw041
APA model for journal article with DOI.	Dumais, S. A. & Dowden, L. (2013). Stressors and supports for adult online learners. *American Journal of Distance Education*, *27*(2), 100-110. https://doi.org/10.1080/08923647.2013.783265
Your perfect APA citation.	Favuzza, F. (2017). Torreggiani and prison overcrowding in Italy. *Human Rights Law Review*, *17*(1), 153-173. https://doi.org/10.1093/hrlr/ngw041

All you did was follow the model:

Lastname, FI. (Year of pub). Title of article with only first word and proper nouns capitalized. *Title of Journal in Italics*. *Vol*(issue), page numbers. https://doi.org/+doi.

EASY WAY 2: TRY A CITATION MAKER

Some "citation machines" do a lot of the work for you. You follow the same first step: Identify the type of source you have. Then select that type of source from the citation maker's menu. Now fill in the blank fields with the info you have. We recommend CiteFast and Citation Machine. Here are tutorial videos on how to use them: How to Use CiteFast and How to Use Citation Machine.

Good luck and be sure to ask about anything you are unsure of!