

APSA citation quick reference

REFERENCE PATTERNS

Journal article
Last, First. YYYY. "Title of Article." *Journal Name* 12 (3): 100–125.

Book
Last, First. YYYY. *Title of Book*. City: Publisher.

Chapter
Last, First. YYYY. "Title of Chapter." In *Title of Book*, ed. First Last, 100–125. City: Publisher.

Website
Last, First. YYYY. "Title of Page." Site Name.
https://example.com/page (accessed Month DD, YYYY).

Congressional hearing
U.S. Congress. Senate. Committee on Foreign Relations. YYYY. *Title of Hearing*. 118th Cong., 1st sess.

Agency report
Name of Agency. YYYY. *Title of Report*. City: Government Printing Office.

Conference paper
Last, First. YYYY. "Title of Paper." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, City, Month DD-DD.

Dissertation
Last, First. YYYY. "Title of Dissertation." PhD diss., University Name.

IN-TEXT CITATIONS

One author	(Putnam 1995)
With a page	(Putnam 1995, 67)
Two authors	(Acemoglu and Robinson 2012)
Four or more	(Putnam et al. 1995)
Two works at once	(Ostrom 1990; Putnam 1995)
Author named in the sentence	Putnam (1995) argued ...

AUTHOR NAMES

First author	Inverted: Putnam, Robert D.
The rest	Normal order, joined with and.
All authors	The reference list names everyone; et al. is for the text only.
Same author	Repeated names are ordered by year, oldest first.

APSA AGAINST ASA

Volume and issue	6 (1): 65–78 vs 6(1):65–78
Page in the text	(Putnam 1995, 67) vs (Putnam 1995:67)
Chapter pages	After the editor vs before the book
Underlying manual	Chicago author-date vs ASA Style Guide

GOVERNMENT MATERIAL

- Congressional documents need the Congress number and session.
- Agency reports are cited by the issuing body, not an individual.
- Party platforms and polls need an access date.
- Sustained legal argument belongs in Bluebook, not APSA.

SIX MISTAKES THAT COST MARKS

- Using the ASA spacing.
- Writing a colon before a page number in the text.
- Numbering the reference list.
- Using et al. in the reference list.
- Citing a hearing without the Congress and session.
- Omitting the access date for online political material.