Following is a sample reference page constructed according to the sixth edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association. Please note that, although this list includes formatting for a listing for a Wikipedia article, wikis are not considered scholarly sources and are not usually acceptable as sources for student work. For an explanation of how to construct individual listings, see the separate document addressing the basics of the APA style of referencing.

Formatting the reference page

Center the word “References” (in plain type, not bolded) horizontally at the top of a new page (use the “Page Break” command under “Insert” in Microsoft Word to ensure that the heading remains at the top of a new page even if you make changes in the body of the paper), just below the running head and page number. Double-space the entire page with no extra line spacing between entries. Format everything below the title using a “hanging indent,” in which the first line of each entry begins at the left margin and subsequent lines are indented by ½ inch.

To access the hanging indent feature in Microsoft Word 2007, begin in the “Paragraph” section on the “Home” tab. Open the drop-down menu on the “line spacing” icon and select “Line Spacing Options.” In the dialog box that appears, find the “Indentation” section. Select “Hanging” from the drop-down menu under “Special.” In earlier versions of Word, select “paragraph” from the “Format” drop-down menu to access the same dialog box.

What to include in the list of references

Include in the reference list all the sources you have cited in the paper except personal communications, and include no works that are not cited. A source may be an article, chapter, report, whole book, website article, blog posting, movie, or other work. List works in alphabetical order by first author surname. If two or more works have the same first author, order by second authors, if any, then by publication date, with the most recent first.

If this page differs from the manual

References


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