

Identifying Errors in APA Style Citations

For this activity you will identify APA Style errors when citing sources within paragraphs.

Example. The following paragraph provides examples of citations that are in perfect APA style. Please notice the various details in each, but pay particular attention to areas that are common sources of mistakes such as: use of commas, use of &, use of et al., and alphabetical order of references. Finally, you should be sure that any citation that appears in the text also appears in the Reference List.

One study has shown that the length of reference periods can affect the interpretation of emotional terms such as anger (Winkielman et al., 1998). Participants given a one-year reference period reported stronger feelings of anger, more serious events, and less frequent events (Winkielman et al., 1998). Smith and Ellsworth (1987) also found that misleading questions lead to inaccurate information about eyewitness events. Research has shown that one way eyewitnesses are influenced by misleading questions is through experimenter knowledge (Smith & Ellsworth, 1987). A great deal of research has focused on eyewitness testimony (e.g., Porter et al., 2003; Scoboria et al., 2002). More specifically, studies have focused on misleading questions (Loftus, 1974; Smith & Ellsworth, 1987).

Instructions: In the following paragraph, please highlight any errors that you find and be prepared to explain why each is incorrect. Please use the above example and your APA Manual as a guide.

Paragraph with Incorrect Citations (8 point):

Self-reference has been shown to increase memory of trait adjectives and/or small sayings (ex. Ganellen & Carver, 1985, Belleza, 1984; Brown, Keenan & Potts, 1986). More generally, Craik & Lockhart have shown that processing through the use of the self has been shown to be effective with human memory. This has also been shown to be beneficial when imagery instructions are used (Brown, P., Keenan, J., and Potts, G., 1986). Finally, Brandan Wagar and Dov Cohen (2003) have tested whether cultural differences in conception of self-influence these effects (Wagar, & Cohen, 2003).

Scavenger hunt (4 point)

Instructions: Using the lecture slides and the internet (judiciously) answer the following questions.

What are the main sections of an APA style paper (in order)? (1 points)

What information is included in the Method section? (1 point)

What should be discussed in the Discussion? (1 point)

What three general guidelines does the APA Manual provide for reducing bias? (1 point)

Identifying Errors in APA Style References (8 point)

For this activity you will practice identifying errors in references from a reference list.

Examples. The following examples are in proper APA style. Please notice the various details in each, but pay particular attention to areas that are common sources of mistakes such as: commas/periods, use of initials for authors, capitalization in the title, the use of italics, and spacing.

Journal Article:

Rogge, R. D., Cobb, R. J., Lawrence, E., Johnson, M. D., & Bradbury, T. N. (2013). Is skills training necessary for the primary prevention of marital distress and dissolution? A 3-year experimental study of three interventions. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, 81*, 949-961. doi:10.1037/a0034209

Chapter from an Edited Book:

Fiedler, K., & Wänke, M. (2013). Why simple heuristics make life both easier and harder: A social psychological perspective. In R. Hertwig, U. Hoffrage, R. Hertwig, & U. Hoffrage (Eds.), *Simple heuristics in a social world* (pp. 487-515). New York, NY, US: Oxford University Press.

Instructions: For the following references, please circle any errors that you find and be prepared to explain why each is incorrect. Please use the above examples and your APA Manual as a guide.

Incorrect Journal Reference:

Tversky, A. & Kahneman, Daniel (1974). "Judgment under uncertainty: heuristics and biases." *Science*, 1124-1131.

Incorrect Journal Reference:

Epley, N., and Gilovich, T. (2001) Putting Adjustment Back in the Anchoring and Adjustment Heuristic: Differential Processing of Self-Generated and Experimenter-Provided Anchors. *American Psychological Society*, 12, 391-396. DOI= 10.1111/1467-9280.00372

Incorrect Chapter Reference:

Agnew, C., R (2000). *Cognitive interdependence and the experience of relationship loss*. In Harvey, J. H., & Miller, E. D. (Editors) *Loss and Trauma: General and Close Relationship Perspectives* (pg. 385-98). Brunner-Routledge: New York, New York.