APA journal references use a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) number that, unlike a URL, will not break. Most documents found in a database and journals that use APA Style provide their DOI as either a number or a link. If the DOI is not provided, you may use CrossRef.org’s “Guest Query” form to look up the DOI. If you document only has a URL, make sure to test the URL before turning in your final draft.

**Generic Website**

According to the frequently asked questions on APAstyle.org, when you need to cite an entire website, not a specific portion of the web site, it is sufficient to give the address of the site in just the text.

Sam Houston’s website can be very informative (http://www.shsu.edu).

**Webpage**

If you are citing a specific page from a website, you will need to create a reference entry. (See the “Build your Own” section on the next page.) Keep in mind that the “What” is often divided into “child” and “parent” where the parent (the larger site containing the cited information) is italicized and the child has no special formatting. Also, include the title of the parent site if it is not part of the URL.


**Webpage With an Organization as Author**

For websites that do not list an individual author, a corporate author or entity is usually listed at the bottom of the page. Treat this author as you would the individual author above.


**Online Articles**

When an article has a DOI, the number goes at the end of the reference.


If no DOI is available, this portion is filled by the URL of the article:

Build Your Own

The basic entry for any APA Style reference entry is: **Who. (When). What. Where.**

**Who:** In APA references, an author’s last name is followed by the author’s first and (if given) middle initials. If there is more than one author, the subsequent authors’ names are listed in the same way. If the “Who” you need to list are not authors (such as Editors, Compilers, or Translators), place the abbreviation of their role after the list of names. See the examples below.

**When:** Generally, the date follows the introductory information in parentheses. If the date needs to include day and month, the format is *(Year, Month Day).* If no date is available, write **n.d.** in parenthesis.

**What:** If you are citing a specific page from a website, you will need to create a reference entry. Keep in mind that the “What” is often divided into “child” and “parent” where the parent (the larger site containing the cited information) is italicized and the child has no special formatting.

**Where:** Where refers to the publication information. For print books, this information is formatted the following way: **Location: Publisher.** For print journal articles, the “Where” information is formatted in the following way: **Volume (Issue number, if needed), inclusive page numbers.** Keep in mind that the issue number is needed only if each issue begins on page one.

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This handout was compiled with information from the following sources:


