

## Citations, Links and References in a Blog Post

By Nicholas de Leeuw

Writing a post for *Psychology in the News* requires careful attention to giving proper credit to your sources. The basic approach on the web site is to use the APA style for citations and references. This is spelled out in excruciating (yet readable) detail in the fifth edition of The APA Manual (American Psychological Association, 2001). This document gives a very brief introduction to APA style, using a few typical examples. Because traditional APA style is intended for paper submissions to printed journals, this document also spells out how “blog-style” is a little different.

Proper attribution on the blog consists of citations, links, and references. A *citation* is contained within the text of a paper. It lists only the authors' last names, and the year of publication. This is an example (Varga, 2000). On the blog, we use citations for references to print sources, and to sources not available electronically to the general public. Links provide an alternate means of citing your sources, for sources that are available to our readers on the web. Links are not a part of traditional APA style. In your submissions, links should be written out in parentheses following the text you would like to show the link, as in this example (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>) A *reference* is found at the end of a paper, in the reference section. It lists all of the additional information a reader might find useful about the source of information, such as the author's initials, the title of the article or book being cited, the name of the periodical or book that it appears in, the publisher, and so on. Every work that is cited or linked in the text must have a corresponding reference, and the reference section should contain only works that are cited or linked in the text.

Nicholas de Leeuw 10/25/09 8:25 AM

**Comment:** Because this will be an electronic document, there is no title page

Nicholas de Leeuw 10/25/09 8:24 AM

**Comment:** If you prefer a post to be anonymous, substitute “105 student” for your name.

Nicholas de Leeuw 10/25/09 8:26 AM

**Comment:** It is helpful to use double spacing in your document, just because it is easier to read that way. Do not use extra spaces between paragraphs.

Nicholas de Leeuw 10/25/09 8:27 AM

**Comment:** This is a citation, in this case to a print source by a corporate author.

Nicholas de Leeuw 10/25/09 8:49 AM

**Comment:** This is a typical citation, to an article in a journal by a single author. Even if you access a journal article electronically through the library databases, it gets a citation instead of a link, because the public (our readers) cannot access those databases.

Nicholas de Leeuw 10/25/09 8:46 AM

**Comment:** This is a link. I turn it into an actual, clickable hyperlink on the blog, but you should just type it out in parentheses. Any source that can be accessed on the web by the general public should be linked.

In the blog, every post has a reference section at the end, that lists all the sources used in the article, in alphabetical order. The basic idea in a reference is to give the reader all the information they would need to track down the source on their own. Differences between different types of references are most easily learned by example, but the basic form is as follows:

Author (year or date of publication). Title of article or web page. *Title of Book, Journal, or Web Site*. Specific information like issue number, publisher or web address, that differs by the type of source.

On the blog, the most common references are for web-based sources. References to web-based articles should include the URL (web address). If there is any reason to think the article has been revised or may be revised (which is always true of on-line news sources), you should also include the date the article was retrieved. The reference to the OWL site

(<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>) is an example.

Another very common type of reference is an article in a periodical, more commonly called a journal article. Varga (2000) is an example. Another very common sort of reference is to a chapter in an edited volume, such as this example (Brewer, 1987).

When you use an electronic database, you may be able to retrieve “full text” articles from a link. This is a huge time savings. If the article is an electronic reprint of an article from a journal or book (such as an article retrieved from JSTOR), the reference is just as if you had the actual paper volume in your hand, except that you add “[Electronic version]” following the article title. The reference to Varga (2000) is an example.

Note that in both references, the article title is given with only the first letter of the first word capitalized. But the title of the journal, book, or web site gets capital letters for all the

Nicholas de Leeuw 10/25/09 9:22 AM

**Comment:** This is a link, just as you would submit it. I used a link instead of a citation because this is a web-based source.

Nicholas de Leeuw 10/25/09 9:40 AM

**Comment:** Note in this citation, where I am talking about the article or author in the text, that only the year of publication goes in parentheses.

Nicholas de Leeuw 10/25/09 9:41 AM

**Comment:** When you don't mention the author's name in the text, it goes in parentheses, in the citation.

"important" words, and is in italics. You should look at the reference section of this paper to see the differences.

Occasionally you may need to cite an article you read about in another source. The original article is the primary source, and what you read is the secondary source. You use this type of reference when you want to refer to something very specific to the primary source, such as a specific result or a particular method. For example, "Certain neurons fired at 10 millisecond intervals (Jin, Fujii & Graybiel, 2009, cited in Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2009)." If you were just referring to the general conclusions given in the secondary source, you would just cite that source.

This is a lot of information and detail for something as boring as references. But proper attribution, using links, citations and references is what makes *Psychology in the News* read like an academic site, instead of just so much web junk. Learning these boring details is also a nice skill for a college student to develop, for all those more traditional papers you will be writing in your college career.

## References

Brewer, W. R. (1987). Schemas versus mental models in human memory. In P. Morris (Ed.), *Modeling Cognition* (pp. 187-197). Chichester: Wiley.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2009, October 23). Time-keeping Brain Neurons Discovered. *ScienceDaily*. Retrieved October 25, 2009, from <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/10/091019162921.htm>

Myers, D. G. (2007). *Psychology: Eighth Edition in Modules*. New York: Worth

Purdue University Online Writing Lab (OWL) (2009). *APA Formatting and Style Guide*. Retrieved August 24, 2009, from <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

Nicholas de Leeuw 10/25/09 10:06 AM

**Comment:** This is the primary source. There is no corresponding reference, because what I actually read was the secondary source.

Nicholas de Leeuw 10/25/09 10:09 AM

**Comment:** This is the secondary source. There is a reference for this one, which is what I actually read.

Nicholas de Leeuw 10/25/09 8:30 AM

**Comment:** Note that this is always the heading for this section. Do not put extra spaces between references.

Nicholas de Leeuw 8/24/09 12:17 PM

**Comment:** This is a chapter from an edited volume. Each chapter probably has a different author.

Nicholas de Leeuw 10/25/09 10:18 AM

**Comment:** This is an article from the web site ScienceDaily. These typically have a corporate author, as the articles are written by the public relations departments of universities. They also make an APA style reference available for you to cut and paste!

Nicholas de Leeuw 10/25/09 10:25 AM

**Comment:** A reference to a book. The city and publisher are listed after the title.

Nicholas de Leeuw 8/24/09 3:20 PM

**Comment:** This is a web-only source. You note both the web address (URL) and the date you retrieved the source. This is important since the page may change in the future.

Varga, D. (2000). Hyperbole and humor in children's language play [Electronic version].

*Journal of Research in Childhood Education*, 14, 142-151.

Nicholas de Leeuw 8/24/09 12:42 PM

**Comment:** This is an electronic version of a journal article. You do not need URL or date information for this type of source, because it is just a replica of the printed version.