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Authors in an APA Reference

We know that an APA formatted reference contains the following parts in this order:

Author. (Publication date). **Title.** **Publication information.**

Let's take a closer look at the **author** part.

Format:

Authors' names are written out as Last Name, First Initial(s) followed by a period.

Example:

Wright, J.

Omit degrees such as PhD.

Two Authors:

If you have two authors, separate them with a comma and ampersand (&).

Example:

Wright, J., & Schelske, D.

3-7 Authors:

If you have three to seven authors, separate each name with a comma and place an ampersand before the last author.

Example:

Wright, J., Schelske, D., & Reiter, J.

8+ Authors:

If you have eight or more authors, list the first six, followed by an ellipsis (three dots) to show something is left out, and then the last author. Separate all authors with commas.

Example:

Wright, J., Schelske, D., Reiter, J., Gotch, J., Hayes, E., Holda, B., ... Nelson, K.

Group Author:

If you have a group author, such as a government agency, educational institution, professional association, or corporation, spell out the full name of the group followed by a period.

Example:

Davenport University.

Unknown Author – Title Entry:

If you have an unknown author, place the title in the author position followed by a period. This is also called a title entry.

Example:

Hurricane Matthew recap: Destruction from the Caribbean to the United States. (2016, October 10). Retrieved from <https://weather.com/storms/hurricane/news/hurricane-matthew-bahamas-florida-georgia-carolinas-forecast>

In this case, the title is italicized because the titles of webpages are italicized.

Other Roles:

Sometimes a person is responsible for a source, but has a role other than author.

If your book has an editor, but...

- a. has no identified author, or
- b. has different authors for different sections, but you are citing the book as a whole,

then put Ed. in parentheses after the editor's name.
Use Eds. for multiple editors.

Example:

Wright, J., & Schelske, D. (Eds.).

If there is **both an author and an editor**, put the editor's initials and last name followed by (Ed.) after the title.

Example:

Emerson, R. W. (1992). *The selected writings of Ralph Waldo Emerson*. **B. Atkinson (Ed.)**. New York, NY: Random House.

If another term best describes the person's role, put it in parentheses after their name.

Examples:

Reiter, J. (Photographer).

Or

Gotch, J. (Producer).

Determining who is responsible:

Sometimes it takes a bit of analysis to determine whether your source has a group author, editor, or title entry.

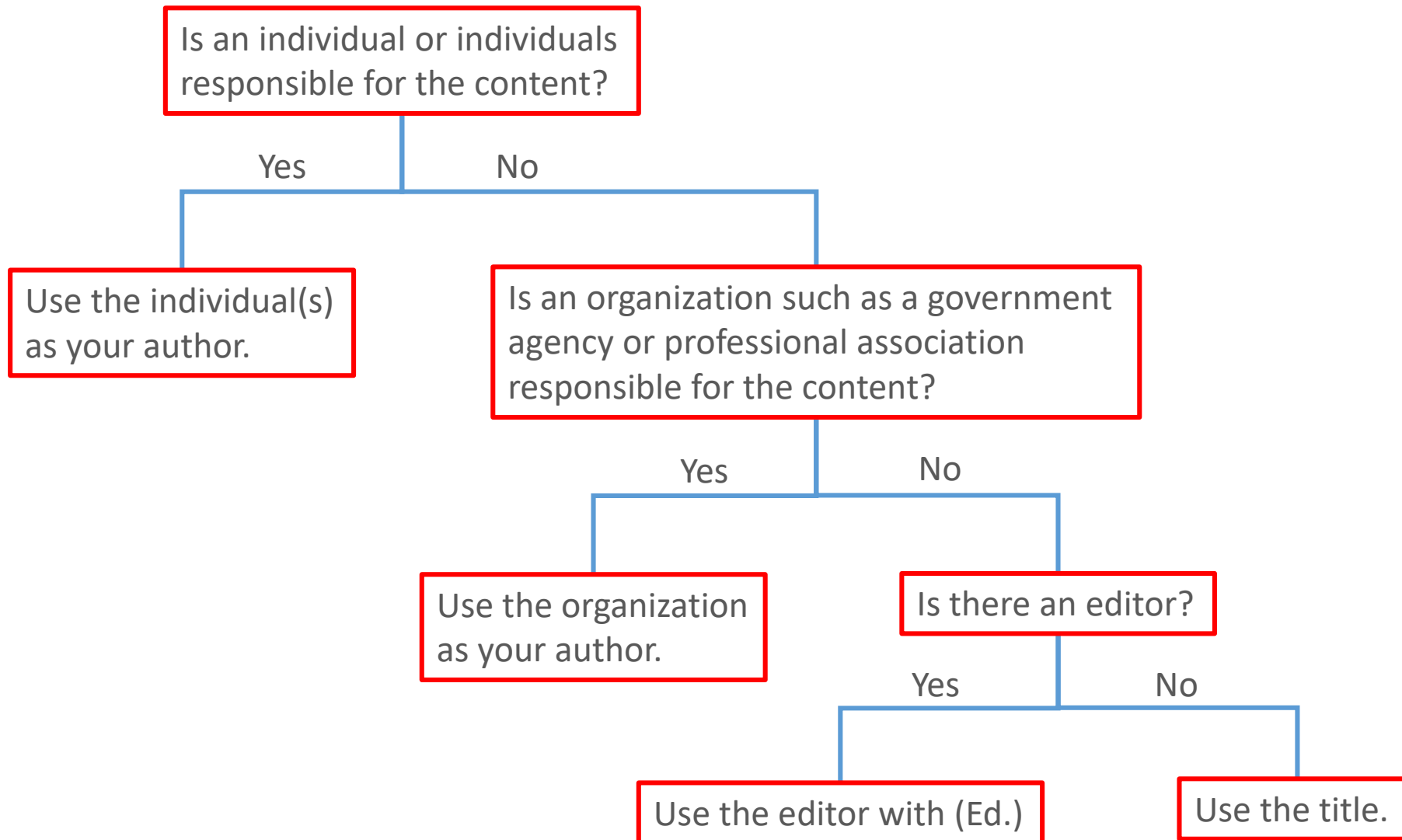
If your information has no individual authors and...

is produced by a news organization or magazine/journal, then it should be a **title entry**.

is produced by a collaborative effort such as a dictionary, encyclopedia or wiki, then it should be an **editor entry** (if one can be identified) or a title entry if an editor cannot be identified.

is produced by an organization (a university department, non-profit organization, governmental body, etc.), then it is a **group author**.

Or it might help to think of it this way:



For example:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention might produce a report on the Zika virus. This would be an example of a **group author**.

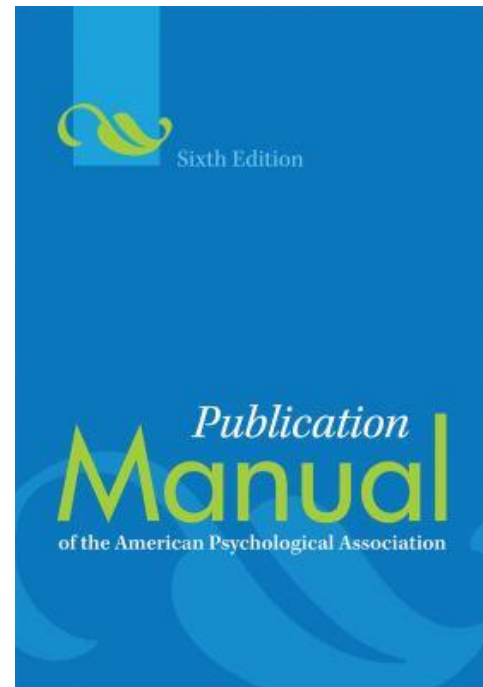
And...

An encyclopedia of infectious diseases compiled by a pair of doctors would be an **editor entry**.

And...

An article about a Zika outbreak with no author listed appearing on a news website would have a **title entry**.

For more information on formatting your references using APA style, check out the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*.



Thank you for watching!

If you have questions, please contact us:

<http://libanswers.davenport.edu> Text: 616-504-1696





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