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Title 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 **title** part, focusing on capitalization and italics.

Capitalization

Only the first word of the **title** and **subtitle** and **proper nouns** are capitalized. All other words are lower case.

Proper nouns are names of:

- Specific persons (*e.g.* Abraham Lincoln)
- Organizations (*e.g.* Greenpeace)
- Places (*e.g.* Detroit)

Let's take a look at some specific examples.

Book:

Bonanos, C. (2012). *Instant: The story of Polaroid*.
New York, NY: Princeton Architectural Press.

Reasons for Capitalization:

Instant	First word of the title
The	First word of the subtitle
Polaroid	Proper noun

Journal Article:

Downie, J., & Lloyd-Smith, G. (2014). **The making of a myth: Unreliable data on access to palliative care in Canada.** *Health Law Review*, 22(3), 46-48.

Reasons for Capitalization:

The	First word of the title
Unreliable	First word of the subtitle
Canada	Proper noun

Web page:

Michigan Economic Development Corporation. (2017).

Regions & cities: Your perfect pure Michigan getaway awaits. Retrieved from <http://www.michigan.org/regions-and-cities>

Reasons for Capitalization:

Regions	First word of the title
Your	First word of the subtitle
Michigan	Proper noun

Italics

The titles of **web pages** and **books** are **italicized**.

The titles of **chapters** and **articles** are **not italicized**.

You can think of it this way:

If you are citing a source as a whole, then the title is italicized.

If you are citing a part of a whole, then the title of the part is not italicized, but the title of the whole is.

Let's take a look at some specific examples.

Web page (italicized):

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.
(n.d.). *Gambling disorder*. Retrieved from
http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71550_2941_74002---,00.html

Whole Book (italicized):

Clifford Larson, K. (2015). *Rosemary: The hidden Kennedy daughter*. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

Chapter (not italicized):

Pokorny, M. E. (2014). Nursing theorists of historical significance. In M. A. Alligood (Ed.), *Nursing theorists and their work* (8th ed., pp. 43-58). St. Louis, MO: Elsevier.

Notice that the chapter title is not italicized, but the book title is.

Article (not italicized):

Walker, N., & Holtfreter, K. (2015). Applying criminological theory to academic fraud. *Journal of Financial Crime*, 22(1), 48-62. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1108/JFC-12-2013-0071>

Notice that the title of the article is not italicized, but the journal title is.

Explanatory Notes:

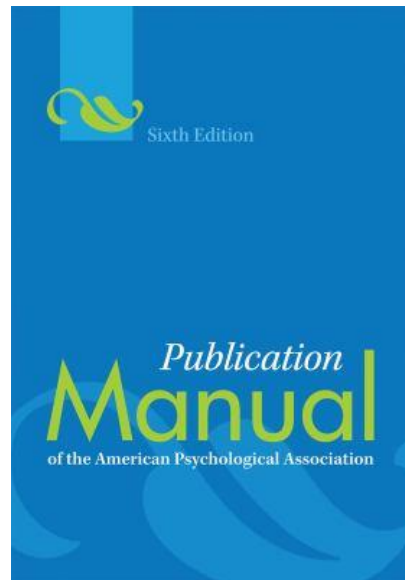
Explanatory notes help the reader understand the type of content being referenced. They are placed in brackets after the title and are used to explain unusual content.

Here are a few examples. Titles are in purple, and explanatory notes are in red.

Samuelson, R. J. (2017, May 10). *Will robots steal all our jobs? [Editorial]*. *The Washington Post*. Retrieved from <http://www.washingtonpost.com>

Van Decker, J. [1943]. *Cowhand [Wood engraving]*. Retrieved from <http://www.nga.gov/content/ngaweb/Collection/art-object-page.147794.html>

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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