APA Review: Citing Social Media and Websites

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APA and Social Media

- The APA website, apastyle.org, is the source for information on how to cite social media.

- The APA Publication Manual, 6th edition, does not specifically address social media citations but most fit under these categories:
  - Electronic Sources and Locator Information (6.31)
  - Personal Communication (6.20)
Objectives:

• Navigate apastyle.org
• Review APA 6th guidelines for citations
• Demonstrate citation examples of social media
• Recommended resource: apastyle.org
Why cite?

- Attribute sources to avoid plagiarism
- Help the reader find source material
- Provide evidence of research
- Moving established knowledge forward
Citation examples

1. Social media and websites
2. In-text citation
3. Reference list
Citation basics for websites and social media

• Casual references in text need only the URL, no reference list entry is needed.

• If you are citing specific information, include an in-text citation and a reference list entry. The four pieces of information: Author, A. (date). Title of document [Format description]. Retrieved from http://xxxxxxxxxxx
Casual references in text need only the URL, no reference list entry

Example:

Dr. Smith said that we can explore the new White House website to find research ideas (http://www.whitehouse.gov/).
If you are citing specific information, include an in-text citation (Author, date) and a reference list entry. The four pieces of information needed for a reference list entry: Author, A. (date). Title of document [Format description]. Retrieved from http://xxxxxxxxxx

In-text example:

The Affordable Care Act is described as being a more affordable alternative to current health care plans available to consumers (Obama, 2014).

Reference list example:

Citing social media: Facebook, Twitter and YouTube

1. Start at apastyle.org to locate examples
2. Under the “Quick Answers – References” select the desired social media type: Facebook, Twitter, YouTube
Cite a Website

Quick Answers—References

Websites

For a passing reference to a website in text, the URL is sufficient; no reference list entry is needed.

Gussie Fink-Nottle has set up a discussion forum for newt fanciers (http://gfnfng.livejournal.com/).

However, when you are citing a particular document or piece of information from a website, include both a reference list entry and an in-text citation. The key to creating the reference list entry is to determine the type of content on the web page. Basically, provide the following four pieces of information:


The in-text citation includes the author and date (Author, date), as with any other APA Style citation.

Source: apastyle.org
Citing Facebook and Twitter: In text
Use the website citation style.

To cite a Twitter or Facebook feed as a whole or to discuss it in general, it is sufficient to give the site URL in text, inside parentheses. There is no need for a reference list entry.

President Obama uses Twitter (http://www.twitter.com/barackobama) and Facebook (http://www.facebook.com/barackobama) to keep citizens up to speed on his initiatives, especially health care reform and Supreme Court nominations.

Source: apastyle.org, How to Cite Twitter and Facebook, Part 1: General
Citing YouTube:

YouTube

Here’s the general format for creating a reference for a video found on YouTube and other video-posting websites:

- If both the real name of the person who posted the video and the screen name are known:

  Author, A. A. [Screen name]. (year, month day). *Title of video* [Video file]. Retrieved from http://xxxxxxxxxx

- If only the screen name of the person who posted the video is known:

  Screen name. (year, month day). *Title of video* [Video file]. Retrieved from http://xxxxxxxxxx The in-text citations include the author name outside of brackets (whichever that may be) and the date.

More information

From the APA Style Blog:

- [How to Create a Reference for a YouTube Video](http://apastyle.org)
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