

APA 7th in Minutes: Online Images

This is Humber Libraries APA in Minutes.

This video will show you the basics of citing an online image and other visual works in APA format, so that you end up with a citation that looks like this: [example shown].

For simplicity, and to match the APA style guide, in this video we will refer to online images as visual works. Visual works can include photographs, paintings, infographics, and more. Decorative images such as clip art and stock photographs (which are often used in PowerPoints and presentations) may require an attribution but do not require APA citation. If you are looking for help with finding, using, and attributing online images for decorative purposes, visit our guide linked in the description.

To make a reference list citation for a visual work found online, you will need: the author, artist, company, or brand that created the work. The year it was created. The title. The type of work, for example a photograph or map. The website name. And the URL. Sometimes, it may be difficult to find all this information. Be sure to look carefully throughout the website.

Begin with the author's last name, comma and initial. If the author is an organization or company, use the full name. After the name, add a period. The year is next, in parentheses, and followed by a period. Now add the title in italics. In APA, capitalize the first letter of the title and subtitle and capitalize any proper nouns. In square brackets identify the type of visual work, Follow with a period. Then include the website name, that is, the place where this visual work was published on the web. Add a period. And follow with the URL. This is your APA citation for an online visual work: [example shown].

But what about citing an image with missing information? If you can't identify the creator of the visual work, move the title and type of work to the beginning of the citation, followed by the date, the website name, and the URL. If you are unable to find a date for when the visual work was created or published, substitute n period, d period for the date. Include in parenthesis, follow with a period.

If the visual work has no title and you are unsure of the type of work, APA style recommends that you briefly describe the visual work in place of the title.

If you are discussing or analyzing a visual work in your assignment, you will need to include an in-text citation. How you include the in-text citation depends on whether you insert or reproduce the image in your work or not. Let's look at both scenarios.

If you have inserted or reproduced the image within your assignment, APA style requires the visual work be labeled as a figure, like this: start by adding the word, **Figure**, in bold, above the visual work, then add a number, in bold, according to the order in which this figure appears in the text. For example, **Figure 1**, if this is the first figure in the text. On the next line down, put the title of the figure in italics. The title can be the same as the visual work, or a general description. Next include the visual work itself. Below the visual work, add the word *Note*, in italics, followed with a period. Add any details that cannot be understood from the image itself, as well as any copyright information.

Instead of using the traditional in-text citation in parenthesis, refer to the visual work in the text by referring to the figure. For example, "The scratched archival paper in **Figure 1** evokes the layers of identity explored in Brewster's work."

When referring to a visual work that isn't reproduced in your paper, add the creator's last name (this could be an artist, company, or brand), add a comma, and the date of publication. Include in parentheses and follow by a period.

Regardless of the presence of the image in your assignment, your reference list will be on its own page at the end of your paper and will contain the full citation information. Make sure to put your citations in alphabetical order. Don't forget to double space, and indent after the first line.

For more information and support with APA:

- Book an appointment with the Writing Center;
- Consult the OWL at Purdue;
- Or refer to the APA manual available at Humber Libraries.