

# How to Cite Sources in APA Format

## What is a citation?

A citation is written *within the text* of your essay or lab report. A citation gives only the last name of the author and the year the article/book was published. Think of a citation as a short version of the reference.

*Example:*

(Harris & Hussey, 2016)

## What is a reference?

A reference gives the reader enough information to go read the full source on their own. References are provided *at the end* of your essay/lab report, on the last page.

*Example:*

Harris, E. and Hussey, K. (2016). In Connecticut a wealth gap divides neighboring schools. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/12/nyregion/in-connecticut-a-wealth-gap-divides-neighboring-schools.html>

## *Example using the New York Times article as a source*

*Suppose you are writing a paper researching the differences in student success in wealthy towns and cities versus poorer towns and cities in Connecticut.*

*You find an article online from the New York Times website that has some good information.*

*Below, I will show you how to do a citation (which is written within the text of your paper, and how to list the source in your references (which are all listed at the end of your paper on its own page).*

### **Do All Students Have the Same Chance of Success?**

One of the key drivers of career success is whether a person graduates from high school. We would like to think that when it comes to public education, we all have an equal opportunity. However, research shows that this is not the case. Often, schools in districts with wealthier families see a greater proportion of students graduating from high school on time. This can even be the case with two towns that are adjacent to one another. For example, 94 percent of students attending high school graduate on time in Fairfield, Connecticut, while next door in Bridgeport that figure drops to only 63 percent (Harris & Hussey, 2016). The big difference? Families in Fairfield have a high average income, while Bridgeport is one of the poorest areas in the state.

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*The last page of your paper is your reference page:*

#### **References**

Harris, E. and Hussey, K. (2016). In Connecticut a wealth gap divides neighboring schools. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/12/nyregion/in-connecticut-a-wealth-gap-divides-neighboring-schools.html>