

## APSU Writing Center

### APA Style 7th Edition - Citing Artwork

#### Artwork References

- **Basic Format:**

- Artist(s) last name, Initial(s). (Year). *Title of artwork* [Description of medium: Oil on canvas, Photograph, Sculpture, etc.]. Museum or Collection, City, State/Country.

#### This resource contains examples for:

1. Artwork in a museum or on a museum website
2. Art exhibition
3. Informational museum plaque

#### 1. Artwork in a museum or on a museum website

- Cite all museum artwork types with the artist listed as the author. Include a description of the medium or format in square brackets after the title. For untitled artwork, describe it in square brackets instead of a title. The museum's name and location go in the source element. Provide a link to the artwork on the museum website if available.

van Gogh, V. (1889). *The starry night* [Painting]. The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY, United States. [https://www.moma.org/learn/moma\\_learning/vincent-van-gogh-the-starry-night-1889/](https://www.moma.org/learn/moma_learning/vincent-van-gogh-the-starry-night-1889/)

- **Parenthetical citation:** (van Gogh, 1889)
- **Narrative citation:** van Gogh (1889)

#### 2. Art exhibition

- Include the curator(s) of the exhibition in the author element of the reference. If the curator is unknown, use the title of the exhibition as the author. The year or range of years of the exhibition goes in the date element. The museum's name and location are in the source element. Provide a link to the exhibition on the museum website if available.

*Design for eternity: Architectural models from the ancient Americas* [Exhibition]. (2015–2016). The Met Fifth Avenue, New York, NY, United States. <https://www.metmuseum.org/exhibitions/listings/2015/design-for-eternity>

Martinez, J.-L., & Douar, F. (2018–2019). *Archaeology goes graphic* [Exhibition]. The Louvre, Paris, France. <https://www.louvre.fr/en/expositions/archaeology-goes-graphic>

- **Parenthetical citations:** (*Design for Eternity*, 2015–2016; Martinez & Douar, 2018–2019)
- **Narrative citations:** *Design for Eternity* (2015–2016) and Martinez and Douar (2018–2019)

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#### 3. Informational museum plaque

- Use a description of the plaque in square brackets instead of the artwork or item's name to clarify that you are citing the plaque itself. If the plaque is dated, use that date; otherwise, use "n.d." Avoid using the artwork or item's date. Since plaque information is typically consolidated from other sources, treat the plaque as a secondary source and aim to cite the same information from a primary source when possible.

[Plaque with background information about *American Gothic*]. (n.d.). Art Institute Chicago, Chicago, IL, United States.

- **Parenthetical citation:** ([Plaque with background information about *American Gothic*], n.d.)
- **Narrative citation:** [Plaque with background information about *American Gothic*] (n.d.)

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**References**

*\*This packet is adapted from the information from Purdue Owl and the American Psychological Association.\**

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). <https://doi.org/10.1037/0000165-000>

Purdue Owl Writing Lab. (2022). *APA Formatting and Style Guide (7th edition)*. Purdue University. [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/apa\\_style/apa\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide/index.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/index.html)

Purdue Owl Writing Lab. (2022). *APA Legal References*. Purdue University. [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/apa\\_style/apa\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide/apa\\_legal%20references%20.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/apa_legal%20references%20.html)