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Describing the study of the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, and conscious existence, philosophy is a popular academic discipline with those that like to ask: “Why?”The problem is there is another question affecting philosophy students, and that is “What?”. As in, what citation style should be used for philosophical essays? Philosophy is a university subject that comes with a lot of reading, and it's essential to handle citations correctly to maintain your academic integrity.We’ve put together these quick guidelines to understanding what citation style to use for philosophy and why.#1 Chicago citation styleChicago-style references come in two variations, "author-date" and "notes and bibliography". We are focussing on "author-date" in this part since it is very common for philosophy.In the "author-date" system, your citation will use the surname of the author, the year of publication, the page number, or section number at the very least even in a simple citation.In practice, an in-text citation in Chicago style looks something like this:(Graness 2016)The reference list at the end of the assignment will have more information regarding what type of source was used and how to access it. When using the Chicago citation method, a complete citation will have the following structure:Graness, Anke. 2016. “Writing the History of Philosophy in Africa: Where to Begin?” Journal of African Cultural Studies 28 (2): 132–46.When citing E-resources like websites, a Chicago-style reference may look a little more like this:Lau, Ting Fang Tiffany. 2020. “The Concept of Anomie in Explaining Crime.” Bellarmine Law Society Review 11 (1). using an electronic source like a website it’s important to note a few things. First of all, a website article or e-journal might not always have page numbers. This can make it more difficult to cite; the solution is to make use of paragraph numbers instead.The other thing is not to forget to include a full link to where the source was found online, either via adding a DOI or a URL when putting it in your list of references.Check out these Chicago style resources Official Chicago style guidelines Chicago style guide Chicago citation generator#2 MLA citation styleThe next citation method that is commonly used in philosophy assignments is the Modern Language Association (MLA) citation style. With this approach, students make use of a few key pieces of information including:The author’s nameThe title of the sourceOther contributing authorsThe version numberThe publisherPublication dateLocation of publicationWhen creating in-text citations, the format with the MLA style guide is relatively simple. Take a look at this example:Philosophy is still a growing field in the modern world, despite being born of the early classical age (Ethbert 18).Compared to the Chicago style, the in-text citation contains a simpler format of the author-date system.An important difference between this method of citation and others is how the reference list is handled. Under the MLA guidelines, the reference list is titled “Works Cited’ and will need to have the following information included when referencing a specific work:Jackson, Liz et al. “Philosophy of Education in a New Key: Snapshot 2020 from the United States and Canada.” Educational philosophy and theory (2020): 1–17. Print.As usual, the author's surname is given the highest emphasis. If no author name or surname can be found, the title of the work should be added as the primary information followed by the publication date. This rule applies to most citation strategies.When quoting an electronic source like phrases from a website, check that the URL or Digital Object Identifier (DOI) is included along with the publishing date. The MLA associations specify that when citing online sources like an e-journal, you need to add the date of access including the day, month, and year as essential details.Check out these MLA style resources Official MLA style guidelines MLA style guide MLA citation generator#3 APA citation styleThen, there is the APA method of citation. One of the most consistently used referencing styles within the social sciences and humanities, the majority of students have had contact with APA at some point in their academic careers.The preferred APA format for in-text citations includes information such as the author’s name and the date of publication separated by a comma within parentheses. If a specific part of the source is being referenced, a page number can also be added. This would look like the following example:Modern education is a constantly evolving field (Komatsu & Rappleye, 2020).With papers that have more than two authors, in-text citations are shortened further by referring to only one author by name and adding the rest under the umbrella of “et al”:In Japan, education has been one of the most evolving fields (Peters et al., 2019).Then, there is the question of how the reference list is handled in APA. The full APA citation works similarly to other methods listed above in that it requires the publisher and edition to be listed along with the title and year of publication. This will look like the example below:Komatsu, H., & Rappleye, J. (2020). Reimagining modern education: Contributions from modern Japanese philosophy and practice? ECNU Review of Education, 3(1), 20–45.All citations in the APA style are organized alphabetically.When it comes to electronic APA citations such as for e-journals or websites, the source URL or DOI needs to be added to the citation.In some cases, it will be important to specify even further, including page ranges or paragraph numbers where available.Check out these APA style resources Official APA style guidelines APA style guide APA citation generator#4 ASA citation styleThe ASA citation style is derived from the Chicago style of citation and while primarily used in sociology this method can also be applied to philosophical studies.Using the author-date ASA method of citation will mean that you'll need to add the author's last names, the date of publication and the page numbers used when directly quoting.In practice, this will look like the example below:There is a need to review research evaluation methods and make them more transparent (Dougherty, Slevc, and Grand 2019).More than three authors would require that you use only the surname of the first author, followed by 'et al.' to describe the other contributors.A full-text citation in ASA will need to look like the below example:Dougherty, Michael R., L. Robert Slevc, and James A. Grand. 2019. “Making Research Evaluation More Transparent: Aligning Research Philosophy, Institutional Values, and Reporting.” Perspectives on Psychological Science: A Journal of the Association for Psychological Science 14(3):361–75.Check out these ASA style resources Official ASA style guide ASA citation generator#5 Harvard citation styleLastly, there is the Harvard citation style, also suitable for use in philosophical papers and assignments. Using the Harvard method, the author and the year of publication are cited in parentheses, while the full citation is added later under the 'References' section.Starting with the in-text citation, you can expect the surnames of the author(s), the publishing date and even the page ranges you used to be included.A new approach to education is needed in the modern age (Jackson et al., 2020, p. 5).In the in-text citation above, you can see the 'et al.' descriptor being used to cut down on the bulk of the citation. The full list of authors will appear in the 'References' section.On that note, a full text citation will hold all the relevant information about the resource you used, including where to find them.Here is an example of a full citation in Harvard style:Peters, U., Honeycutt, N., De Block, A., & Jussim, L. (2020). Ideological diversity, hostility, and discrimination in philosophy. Philosophical Psychology, 33(4), 511–548.Check out these Harvard referencing resources Official Harvard style guidelines (Cite Them Right) Harvard style guide Harvard citation generatorFrequently Asked Questions about Citation styles for philosophy What format should a philosophy paper be in?There is no set format for philosophy, although philosophy departments will recommend choosing a style like APA and adhering to it. How do I know which citation style to use for philosophy?Always speak to your lecturer or check your rubric to see if there is a recommended style. If not, take a look at what the most popular citation style is in that field, and choose the one that you feel will be easiest to implement. How do you write a good introduction for philosophy?Try to start with a topic statement, elaborate on your main points, and then start to add supporting statements and references. Your opening sentence should be enticing to the reader, and the lines that follow it should clearly state what you intend to write and how you will support it. What citation style do philosophers use?There is no set style of citation used in philosophy, although APA and MLA are commonly used, as is the Chicago style. Chicago in particular provides the ability to add footnotes. Does philosophy use MLA or APA?Both styles are commonly used in philosophy; since there is no required citation style for this subject you can use the citation method of your choice. Just be sure to bear in mind that whichever style you choose, you'll need to ensure you use the same format consistently throughout. Citation is a method of informing a reader that some of the materials you used in the context did not originate from you. The reason why we cite sources is to give credit to the authors. Also, citation helps the reader to go for more details in the cited sources. Furthermore, writers site sources to strengthen the work by offering external support for their ideas. Citing does not reduce your effort to look less original. It only pouts some emphasis on the originality of the work. What to Cite from the Philosophers There are several things that one can cite. They include Ideas, thoughts Direct quotes When making a reference to a specific thought In case you are paraphrasing When other people’s ideas and thoughts brought influence to your writing. How to Cite the Following in Both MLA and APA You must know how to cite materials from ancient sources to enable your research to be authentic. MLA and APA are the most common formats that students use. Citing Plato in APA APA style is a popular method that many authors use in social sciences. When you cite his texts like “the Symposium” in the bibliography, you begin by listing the author’s name, followed by the year of translation. Next is the location and the publisher. One does not need to cite the original date when they were published since it is unknown. For example: Plato. (1998) The symposium, Florida, IN: Jewel Publishing Company If you are using an in-text citation, you should use the author’s name and the translation date. The title must be in italics. For example, Daedalus informed him that Aristides updated home concerning the event (Plato, transl.1998) We use AMA style when you are writing humanities and liberal arts papers. For instance, if you are citing the “The symposium” as indicated above, you should follow the below procedure: The author Title Translator City Publisher Year of publication Medium In the following example, the title will be in italics. Plato. The symposium. Trans. Archimedes Icarus and Alexandra Nehemas. Florida: Jewel Publishing Company, 1998. Print You are free to use extra details when citing the excerpts from “The symposium” since varying classes are still in circulation. When using this MLA style, you should include the page numbers no matter how the translation’s inconsistencies can cause. One is free to use the lines of the speech and the page numbers. For example Daedalus informed him that Aristides updated home concerning the event (2; 173B) Citing Aristotle in APA Style Aristotle was a great Greek philosopher who excelled in creative writing in the 4th century BCE. He wrote classical works referred to as Poetics. When citing, they will require a piece of different information when doing in-text references that you would do to a book. They will not be on the reference at the end of the book. Aristotle’s works like “Poetics” do not need referencing page entry. You will be using the in-text citation to offer more details about the source. The initial reference should provide the title for the “Poetics” to allow the reader to know what you are referring to. For example, “As stated in Aristotle’s Poetics…” The parenthetical citation should have the name of the author name. When referring to “Poetics,” you should quote the date of translation since the publication date is unknown. For example: (Aristotle, trans. 1980). Such details allow the readers to locate the version where you quoted the paper. When citing a piece of paper, give details to enable the reader to find the passage. A section number could be okay since the “Poetics” appears in sections. For example, (Aristotle, trans. 1970, II). Such indicates that it was a translation of 1975 of Aristotle’s work in section two. How to Cite Aristotle in MLA When you are citing Aristotle in MLA, you should include the following format. Begin with: Listing the author The translator, The title The publisher The year of publication The medium For example, if you are citing “The Nicomachean Ethics,” you can use the following format: Aristotle, P D. Bush, and Lesley Patel. The Nicomachean Ethics. Wise: Oxford University Press, 2012. Print. Citing Socrates in MLA It follows the Stephanus numbering, which you can find on the margins of different books. When citing a passage, you should i9ndicate the name of the dialogue. Plus, you must show the Stephanus page and the section as it appears. For example, In normal writing, passages can consume more than one page. As such, the author should indicate the range. For instance, you can cite a passage that you extracted from Socrates at the beginning of 228b and continuing to 228c as follows: Socrates 228b-c When using an in-text citation in MLA, you are free to exclude the author’s name. Also, you can remove the name of the dialogue suppose they appear in the sentence itself. The benefit of this style is that people who have varying editions can use the same page numbers. The format is simple, use, The title, A section number A letter For example Socrates believe those who like writing as naïve (Phaedrus 267c) In this example, the number stands for the page number. We were citing from page 267 and section c of the Stephanus edition. Citing Socrates in APA When you are citing Socrates in the APA format, you will use the following steps: The author’s name Original year of publication The title of the book Translated by The name of the publisher The year of publishing You can look at the following example Peter, Lenny G., 1949-. Plato’s “Apology of Socrates”: an Interpretation, with a New Translation. Ithaca, FL. Florida University Press, 1976. How to cite ancient sources and classics When citing the old classical works, you should do the following: Author The year of original publication (Place it in round brackets) The book title (Let it be in italics) Translated by (suppose it is relevant) Edition (One should include the edition number only if it is not the first edition) The publisher and the place of publication Volume and series number if need be. When you are citing ancient sources like poetry, let it be less than two lines. In addition, you should mark the division between verses. For example, “Son of Aristotle, life is not fair to you/ my son, you are the most desperate man on earth.” The use of “/” will indicate a new line. Aspects of Citing When you begin to cite, ensure that you remain consistent. It could be safe to over-cite that putting your paper at risk of plagiarism. If you doubt certain information, it is better to cite or ask the professor about the matter. Ensure that you cite well as you use text or words that are not your own. Such could be a paraphrase or a direct quote. If it is a non-controversial fact or common knowledge, you do not have to cite it. Also, when citing ancient sources, you can observe the following: Most classical authors lack standard abbreviations that you can use. For example, it could be Oxford Classical Dictionary (DE5. 08.2007). If you are citing a book generically, you should capitalize all elements, for example, in Book Sixteen. Suppose the author wrote a single work only; you can omit the name of the work. For example, you can write Herodotus 8:1 instead of Herodotus, Histories 8.1. Joseph is a freelance journalist and a part-time writer with a particular interest in the gig economy. He writes about schooling, college life, and changing trends in education. When not writing, Joseph is hiking or playing chess. APA Style (7th ed.) According to the American Psychological Association (2020), when citing from a classical work: “when the date of original publication for a classical work is ancient, use the abbreviation ‘B.C.E.’ …, and if that date is approximate, use the abbreviation ‘ca.’” (p. 303). Include the republished dates in the in-text citations and references when the year or approximate year of original publication is unknown (APA, 2020, p. 302). Keep in mind what you're actually reading; that is, if you're quoting from Plato, you're probably not reading the original text that was published in the vernacular Greek of 370 B.C.E. Rather, you're likely reading a republished and translated version of the text, and a reference entry will provide information for the more recent publication you used, rather than the original publication. For example: Plato. (2000). The Republic (T. Griffith, Trans. & G.R.F. Ferrari, Ed.). Cambridge University Press. work published ca. 370 B.C.E) Similarly, both the original year of publication and the recent publication date are included in an in-text citation: (Plato, ca. 370 B.C.E./2000) Accordingly, the reference should point your reader to the translation that you read (as shown above in the Plato reference), versus to the original text. For more information on citing classical sources, please the examples on page 324-325 of the APA Style manual and How Do I Cite and Reference Religious Literature in APA Style?. Reference American Psychological Association. (2020). Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.). Describing the study of the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, and conscious existence, philosophy is a popular academic discipline with those that like to ask: “Why?”The problem is there is another question affecting philosophy students, and that is “What?”. As in, what citation style should be used for philosophical essays? Philosophy is a university subject that comes with a lot of reading, and it's essential to handle citations correctly to maintain your academic integrity.We’ve put together these quick guidelines to understanding what citation style to use for philosophy and why.#1 Chicago citation styleChicago-style references come in two variations, "author-date" and "notes and bibliography". We are focussing on "author-date" in this part since it is very common for philosophy.In the "author-date" system, your citation will use the surname of the author, the year of publication, the page number, or section number at the very least even in a simple citation.In practice, an in-text citation in Chicago style looks something like this:(Graness 2016)The reference list at the end of the assignment will have more information regarding what type of source was used and how to access it. When using the Chicago citation method, a complete citation will have the following structure:Graness, Anke. 2016. “Writing the History of Philosophy in Africa: Where to Begin?” Journal of African Cultural Studies 28 (2): 132–46.When citing E-resources like websites, a Chicago-style reference may look a little more like this:Lau, Ting Fang Tiffany. 2020. “The Concept of Anomie in Explaining Crime.” Bellarmine Law Society Review 11 (1). using an electronic source like a website it’s important to note a few things. First of all, a website article or e-journal might not always have page numbers. This can make it more difficult to cite; the solution is to make use of paragraph numbers instead.The other thing is not to forget to include a full link to where the source was found online, either via adding a DOI or a URL when putting it in your list of references.Check out these Chicago style resources Official Chicago style guidelines Chicago style guide Chicago citation generator#2 MLA citation styleThe next citation method that is commonly used in philosophy assignments is the Modern Language Association (MLA) citation style. With this approach, students make use of a few key pieces of information including:The author’s nameThe title of the sourceOther contributing authorsThe version numberThe publisherPublication dateLocation of publicationWhen creating in-text citations, the format with the MLA style guide is relatively simple. Take a look at this example:Philosophy is still a growing field in the modern world, despite being born of the early classical age (Ethbert 18).Compared to the Chicago style, the in-text citation contains a simpler format of the author-date system.An important difference between this method of citation and others is how the reference list is handled. Under the MLA guidelines, the reference list is titled “Works Cited’ and will need to have the following information included when referencing a specific work:Jackson, Liz et al. “Philosophy of Education in a New Key: Snapshot 2020 from the United States and Canada.” Educational philosophy and theory (2020): 1–17. Print.As usual, the author's surname is given the highest emphasis. If no author name or surname can be found, the title of the work should be added as the primary information followed by the publication date. This rule applies to most citation strategies.When quoting an electronic source like phrases from a website, check that the URL or Digital Object Identifier (DOI) is included along with the publishing date. The MLA associations specify that when citing online sources like an e-journal, you need to add the date of access including the day, month, and year as essential details.Check out these MLA style resources Official MLA style guidelines MLA style guide MLA citation generator#3 APA citation styleThen, there is the APA method of citation. One of the most consistently used referencing styles within the social sciences and humanities, the majority of students have had contact with APA at some point in their academic careers.The preferred APA format for in-text citations includes information such as the author’s name and the date of publication separated by a comma within parentheses. If a specific part of the source is being referenced, a page number can also be added. This would look like the following example:Modern education is a constantly evolving field (Komatsu & Rappleye, 2020).With papers that have more than two authors, in-text citations are shortened further by referring to only one author by name and adding the rest under the umbrella of “et al”:In Japan, education has been one of the most evolving fields (Peters et al., 2019).Then, there is the question of how the reference list is handled in APA. The full APA citation works similarly to other methods listed above in that it requires the publisher and edition to be listed along with the title and year of publication. This will look like the example below:Komatsu, H., & Rappleye, J. (2020). Reimagining modern education: Contributions from modern Japanese philosophy and practice? ECNU Review of Education, 3(1), 20–45.All citations in the APA style are organized alphabetically.When it comes to electronic APA citations such as for e-journals or websites, the source URL or DOI needs to be added to the citation.In some cases, it will be important to specify even further, including page ranges or paragraph numbers where available.Check out these APA style resources Official APA style guidelines APA style guide APA citation generator#4 ASA citation styleThe ASA citation style is derived from the Chicago style of citation and while primarily used in sociology this method can also be applied to philosophical studies.Using the author-date ASA method of citation will mean that you'll need to add the author's last names, the date of publication and the page numbers used when directly quoting.In practice, this will look like the example below:There is a need to review research evaluation methods and make them more transparent (Dougherty, Slevc, and Grand 2019).More than three authors would require that you use only the surname of the first author, followed by 'et al.' to describe the other contributors.A full-text citation in ASA will need to look like the below example:Dougherty, Michael R., L. Robert Slevc, and James A. Grand. 2019. “Making Research Evaluation More Transparent: Aligning Research Philosophy, Institutional Values, and Reporting.” Perspectives on Psychological Science: A Journal of the Association for Psychological Science 14(3):361–75.Check out these ASA style resources Official ASA style guide ASA citation generator#5 Harvard citation styleLastly, there is the Harvard citation style, also suitable for use in philosophical papers and assignments. Using the Harvard method, the author and the year of publication are cited in parentheses, while the full citation is added later under the 'References' section.Starting with the in-text citation, you can expect the surnames of the author(s), the publishing date and even the page ranges you used to be included.A new approach to education is needed in the modern age (Jackson et al., 2020, p. 5).In the in-text citation above, you can see the 'et al.' descriptor being used to cut down on the bulk of the citation. The full list of authors will appear in the 'References' section.On that note, a full text citation will hold all the relevant information about the resource you used, including where to find them.Here is an example of a full citation in Harvard style:Peters, U., Honeycutt, N., De Block, A., & Jussim, L. (2020). Ideological diversity, hostility, and discrimination in philosophy. Philosophical Psychology, 33(4), 511–548.Check out these Harvard referencing resources Official Harvard style guidelines (Cite Them Right) Harvard style guide Harvard citation generatorFrequently Asked Questions about Citation styles for philosophy What format should a philosophy paper be in?There is no set format for philosophy, although philosophy departments will recommend choosing a style like APA and adhering to it. How do I know which citation style to use for philosophy?Always speak to your lecturer or check your rubric to see if there is a recommended style. If not, take a look at what the most popular citation style is in that field, and choose the one that you feel will be easiest to implement. How do you write a good introduction for philosophy?Try to start with a topic statement, elaborate on your main points, and then start to add supporting statements and references. Your opening sentence should be enticing to the reader, and the lines that follow it should clearly state what you intend to write and how you will support it. What citation style do philosophers use?There is no set style of citation used in philosophy, although APA and MLA are commonly used, as is the Chicago style. Chicago in particular provides the ability to add footnotes. Does philosophy use MLA or APA?Both styles are commonly used in philosophy; since there is no required citation style for this subject you can use the citation method of your choice. Just be sure to bear in mind that whichever style you choose, you'll need to ensure you use the same format consistently throughout.

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