Most APA style rules are for sources in textual (i.e. written) forms. To distinguish non-textual from textual sources, a description of the creator’s role and format are required. Below are specific rules with examples, according to Cites & Sources, 4th edition:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FORMAT</th>
<th>IN-TEXT CITATION</th>
<th>REFERENCE LIST CITATION</th>
<th>EXAMPLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online streaming video from YouTube</td>
<td>Use the username, producer and/or creator of the video and the year it was uploaded online:</td>
<td>Username, Producer or Creator (Role) (Date of publication). Title of video in sentence case and italics [format in square brackets]. Retrieved from <a href="http://websiteofvideo.com/full">http://websiteofvideo.com/full</a></td>
<td>Yale University (Producer). (2010, June 15). Globalization of energy demand [Video clip]. Retrieved from <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RJM7HLyzsCM">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RJM7HLyzsCM</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streaming video from library database</td>
<td>Use the producer, director and/or scriptwriter as author(s) and release date:</td>
<td>Producer or Director. (Role). (Date of release). Title in sentence case and italics [format]. Retrieved from Name database.</td>
<td>Forster, M. (Director). (2013). World war Z [Motion picture]. Retrieved from Criterion on Demand database.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IMPORTANT EXCEPTIONS:**

If there is...
- **No date** ⇒ Use the abbreviation “n.d.”: (Evans, n.d.).
- **No title** ⇒ Create a clear, concise description, for example: “Baby Panda in Zoo”
- **No creator/author name** ⇒ Place title of work in author position for the reference; use shortened version in quotation marks for the in-text citation: (“Baby Panda”, n.d.).
Many online images and similar media sources are copyright-protected, which means you cannot use them without payment. If an image is in the public domain, royalty-free or has a Creative Commons (CC) license, you may use it but **ALWAYS** include in-text and reference list citations.

**Research Tip:**
**Is it LEGAL?**

These websites contain images permitting non-commercial (such as educational) use with a citation:

- Flickr Commons - https://www.flickr.com/commons/
- Flickr Creative Commons - https://www.flickr.com/creativecommons/
- Wikimedia Commons - https://commons.wikimedia.org/
- Pixabay - https://pixabay.com/
- Compfight - http://compfight.com/
- Public Health Image Library (PHIL) - http://phil.cdc.gov/phil/

Creative Commons (CC) is a nonprofit organization that provides copyright licenses that enable open sharing of online content. Images with CC licenses usually allow for non-commercial use with proper citation. Note: always read the license to ensure your use does not violate it.

PART 2: Websites

Citing websites can be difficult as there is often missing information (i.e. dates, individual authors, and page numbers). Below are guidelines and specific rules for citing pages and documents found on websites.

**BASIC RULE FOR CITING A WEB PAGE IN A REFERENCE LIST:**

*Author, A.* (Date of publication). Title of web page in sentence case. *Name of website or publication in mixed case and italics.* Retrieved from http://website.com/url

**COMMON PROBLEMS & EXCEPTIONS:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Solution</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No individual author(s) on web page</td>
<td>• If there’s no author, identify the group or organization responsible for the content OR use the title of the web page or article as author</td>
<td>American Psychological Association. (2014, April). Undoing dyslexia via video games. Retrieved from <a href="http://www.apa.org/action/resources/research-in-action/dyslexia.asp">http://www.apa.org/action/resources/research-in-action/dyslexia.asp</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No page numbers</td>
<td>• For in-text citations, use the abbreviation “para.” OR a heading or subtitle in quotes</td>
<td>The American Psychological Association advises identifying “safe areas in the house where there are no weapons” (n.d., “Safety planning”).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No date</td>
<td>• Use the abbreviation “n.d.” in brackets</td>
<td>According to the American Psychological Association (n.d.), “behavioral interventions are crucial” for treating autism (para. 5).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple pages from one website</td>
<td>• If paraphrase, summarize or quote from multiple pages on one website, you must cite each page individually; add letters to distinguish entries if dates are the same</td>
<td>American Psychological Association. (n.d.-a). Autism treatment options. Retrieved from <a href="http://www.apa.org/topics/autism/treatment.aspx">http://www.apa.org/topics/autism/treatment.aspx</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brief mention of a website</td>
<td>• If you are briefly mentioning a website, it is acceptable to cite it in-text only with the web address in brackets</td>
<td>Autism Canada has many resources on its website to support parents of children with the disorder (<a href="http://autismcanada.org/">http://autismcanada.org/</a>)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### WEBSITE FORMATS & EXAMPLES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FORMAT</th>
<th>RULE</th>
<th>EXAMPLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### IMPORTANT NOTES:

- If there is no individual author(s) on the page, **find the group or organization**. Ask yourself: Who is responsible for this web page? Is there a group that owns it?
- **Do NOT use the copyright date at the bottom of the page**. A copyright date refers only to ownership of the content and does NOT indicate when the information was published or posted online. If there is no other date, use “n.d.” in place of a date.
- If you cannot find a person or organization responsible for the content, **use the title of the web page or article as the author**. See the third example above, “Web page with no author or publication date.”
- **To find or confirm the name of the organization or publication:**
  - Go to the “About Us” or “Contact” pages
  - Delete the ending of the web address (URL) at the top of the page: for example, deleting “articleview/26532” from “http://www.hrreporter.com/articleview/26532” will lead to the front page of the publication, the *Canadian HR Reporter*. 

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**WEB SITE FORMATS & EXAMPLES:**

- Document from website of government or organization
- Web page with group or organizational author
- Web page with no author or publication date
- Entry from an online dictionary or encyclopedia
- Article on a newspaper, journal or magazine website

**IMPORTANT NOTES:**

- If there is no individual author(s) on the page, find the group or organization. Ask yourself: Who is responsible for this web page? Is there a group that owns it?
- Do NOT use the copyright date at the bottom of the page. A copyright date refers only to ownership of the content and does NOT indicate when the information was published or posted online. If there is no other date, use “n.d.” in place of a date.
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Since anyone can post content online, **a lot of information published on the web is unreliable and lacks credibility and authority**. Use the **CRAAP test** described in this chart to analyze websites and determine if a source is appropriate for academic assignments at the college level.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Questions to Ask</th>
<th>Purpose &amp; Tips</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Currency** | - When was the information published or posted?  
- Has it been revised or updated?  
- Is the information current or out-of-date for your topic?  
- Are the links functional or broken?  
- When was the page created? | * A recent update may not mean the information is current. A “last updated” date may refer to a minor change or advertising on the page.  
* Compare the information to other sources, such as scholarly articles found in a library database. This is very important for science, technology, and health where new information is frequently produced.  
* Broken links indicate a website is not up-to-date |
| **Relevance** | - Does the information relate to your topic or answer your question?  
- Who is the intended audience?  
- Is the information at an appropriate level (i.e. not too elementary or advanced for your needs)?  
- Is the site intended to be general, comprehensive or selective? | To identify the target audience and relevance, look at:  
* Reading level (is it easy or challenging? Does it assume previous knowledge?)  
* Design of the page (are there banner ads, flashy graphics, or plain text?)  
* Possible target demographics (is the information aimed at academic researchers, kids, consumers, political activists, or another type of person?) |
| **Authority** | - Who is the author, publisher, source or sponsor?  
- Are the author’s credentials or organizational affiliations given? Are they qualified to write about the topic?  
- Is there contact information, such as a publisher or e-mail address? | * Go to the “About” page to learn about the website’s purpose.  
* URL ending, or domain, will give you clues about the website:  
  .org: advocacy web site, such as a non-profit organization.  
  .com: A business or commercial site.  
  .edu: A site affiliated with a higher education institution  
  .gov: A United States government site.  
  .ca: A site originating in Canada  
  .gc.ca: A Canadian government site. |
| **Accuracy** | - Is the information supported by evidence?  
- Has the information been reviewed or edited?  
- Can you verify the information in another source or from personal knowledge?  
- Does the language or tone seem biased or emotional?  
- Are there obvious errors (spelling, grammar, etc.)? | * Many websites, particularly non-profit organizations or advocacy groups, will have a particular agenda or purpose that results in information with a bias.  
* A bias is not necessarily bad, but it is very important to take it into account when interpreting or using the information.  
* Consider if the author is fair, balanced or moderate in their presentation or viewpoint. Is he or she overly emotional or extreme?  
* Is there a conflict of interest due to the author’s affiliation or perspective? |
| **Purpose** | - What is the purpose of the information? Does it inform, persuade, sell or entertain?  
- Are the intentions of the authors/sponsors clear?  
- Are there political, cultural, institutional, or personal biases? | * Websites may have several purposes, such as to persuade and entertain at the same time.  
* It is important to analyze if one purpose conflicts with the information found on the website.  
* Consider unstated purposes found in clues such as the aim of the organization or the use of advertising on the page. |