

APA citation is intended for the reader, *not the author*. Imagine that you are reading an article and are interested in further exploring a cited source. Does the information, provided by the author in the reference page, effectively navigate you to the full-text article? You would be frustrated if you truly desired to access a source and the reference page citation was inadequate.

This brings us to the APA citation formats below. They are ordered from 'least effective', to 'most effective', in guiding the reader to the full-text article. Do you understand why?

Remember- it is *about your audience*.

When citing scholarly journals:

1. The following citation signals that the student went to an on-ground library and retrieved the hard-copy of the journal. Why? There is no retrieval statement after the page numbers.

Kendrick, K. (2011). The tipping point: Prison overcrowding nationally, in West Virginia, and recommendations for reform. *West Virginia Law Review*, 113(2), 585-620

2. The following citation signals that the student used an electronic database to retrieve the journal. Why? There is a retrieval statement. This usually comes in the form of a doi number or a named database (note the highlighted portions of each citation). Databases are usually restricted i.e. requires a username and password.

Mears, D., Cochran, J., Bales, W., & Bhati, A. (2016). Recidivism and time served in prison. *Journal of Criminal Law & Criminology*, 106(1), 83-124. Retrieved from MasterFILE Premier

Murch, D. (2015). Crack in Los Angeles: Crisis, militarization, and black response to the late twentieth-century war on drugs. *Journal of American History*, 102(1), 162-173. doi: 10.1093/jahist/jav260

3. The following citation signals that the student retrieved the journal article from the open-sourced Internet i.e. there is no database restriction- anyone may cut and paste the url to access the full article (note the highlighted portion of the citation):

Chandler, R., Fletcher, B., & Volkow, N. (2009). Treating drug abuse and addiction in the criminal justice system: Improving public health and safety. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 301(2), 183-190. Retrieved from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2681083/>