Identifying the essential elements in an APA journal article citation

 Identify the 10 essential elements of an APA citation in this screenshot of scholarly journal article description.

Note: You can either write the number for each element where you see it on the screenshot, or draw arrows from the listed element to its location on the screenshot. Whatever works best for you.

1. Author(s) name(s) 6. Volume number
2. Year of publication 7. Issue Number
3. Title of article 8. Starting page number (if shown)
4. Subtitle of article (if there is one) 9. Ending page number (if shown)
5. Title of Journal 10. DOI (if shown)

Are youth offenders responsive to changing sanctions? Evidence from the Canadian Youth Criminal Justice Act of 2003

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Abstract

This paper examines youth offenders’ responses to changing sanctions, using evidence from the Canadian Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA), which replaced the Young Offenders Act on April 1, 2003. Using police reported and court based official statistics and the difference-in-difference strategy, it is found that Canadian youth offenders were less likely to be charged by police and less likely to receive a custodial sentence following the YCJA. These changes were relatively large for less serious crime and small or insignificant for more serious crime. In response to these changes in the certainty of sanctions, less serious youth crime increased while the direction of change for more serious youth crime was less clear. Empirical analysis on youth self-reported crime corroborates the findings on youth crime reported to police, particularly for boys.

Spot the errors:

 Spot the mistakes in this computer-generated citation from Summon.

Note: Many databases will automatically generate APA citations, but they usually contain errors.


APA Citation Worksheet
Created by Chris Burns, KPU Library (Summer 2019)
Questions to ask yourself when looking at a computer-generated journal article citation:

- Is it indented after the first line and double-spaced?
- Are the author(s) names properly listed?
  - Should include surnames, but only show initials for first and middle names
  - if there are up to 7 authors, all of them should be listed
- Is all of the information included?
  - check that the 10 elements listed on the other side of this sheet are there, and are in the correct order
- Are the words in the article title properly capitalized?
  - the first word in the title and subtitle should be capitalized, plus any proper nouns
- Is the rest of the punctuation and italicization okay?
  - the title of the journal and the volume number should be in italics
- If there is no DOI, is the URL provided correct?
  - it should point the reader to the journal publisher’s homepage for the journal

Correctly-formatted APA citation for scholarly journal article:

doi:10.1111/caje.12205

Mistakes in the computer-generated Summon citation on the other side of handout:

1. Citation should be indented after first line, and double-spaced
   - Use the hanging indent feature in Word under “Paragraph > Indentation > Special”
   - Use the line spacing feature in Word under “Paragraph > Line Spacing > Double”
2. The first word in the subtitle (“Evidence”) should be capitalized
3. Proper nouns in the article’s title should be capitalized (“Canadian”, “Youth Criminal Justice Act”)
4. If the article title includes the title of another work (such as a book or law), it should be in italics (“Youth Criminal Justice Act”)
5. If the journal has a bilingual title, you may choose to include only the language in which you are writing your paper.

Notes about DOI codes

- The DOI code shown in the screenshot is part of a link created by the organization that issues DOI codes: <https://doi.org/10.1111/caje.12205>. You can include that full link right after the period after the ending page number in your citation. You can also just include the actual DOI code, as I have done above. Either way is correct.
- You may not find a DOI for an older journal article, or for most articles in legal journals. In that case, you would instead add this statement at the end of the citation:
  
  Retrieved from [insert URL for journal publisher]

Use Google to look up the URL for the journal’s home page on the publisher’s website. Do NOT use the URL from the top of your search screen; these links usually only work while you are logged into the database and will break after you close the browser. Even if they are ‘permalinks’ they will only work for a person with access to the KPU databases. Do NOT use the name of the database. Again, this is only useful for a person with access to the KPU databases.