

Exercise: Assemble a Reference

Level: Introductory

Duration: 30 minutes

Setting: Canvas or Classroom

This exercise helps students learn how to construct accurate references according to a specified referencing style. Working collaboratively, students will piece together disassembled references and identify the type of publication each reference represents.

Preparation

Before the session:

- Print out several references in the chosen style (APA or Vancouver).
- Cut each reference into its individual components (e.g., author, title, journal, year, volume, pages).

Instructions

1. Group Work

Divide students into groups of 3–6. Provide each group with two references, cut into separate parts.

2. Reference Construction

Using the designated referencing style (APA or Vancouver), students must reconstruct the references correctly.

Tip: Refer students to the Karolinska Institutet Library's APA/Vancouver Guide.

<https://kib.ki.se/en/write-cite/writing-references-apa-vancouver/reference-guides/reference-guide-apa-7>

<https://kib.ki.se/en/write-cite/writing-references-apa-vancouver/reference-guides/reference-guide-vancouver>

3. Peer Review

Groups rotate to another table to review the reconstructed references of a different group.

- If errors are found, students should **not** make corrections themselves but instead provide constructive feedback to the original group.

4. Publication Type Identification

Students should also determine what type of publication each reference represents (e.g., journal article, book chapter, conference paper) and note this next to the reference.

5. **Final Review**

Groups return to their original table and receive feedback.

A joint review and discussion follows, where groups present their final references and reflect on the process.

Learning Outcomes

- Understand the structure and formatting of academic references
- Recognize different publication types
- Practice peer feedback and collaborative learning
- Develop attention to detail and referencing accuracy

Read more at [Referencing](#) at KIB