

elementary and secondary education act of 1965 apa citation

Understanding the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 APA Citation

Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 APA citation is a critical component for academics, researchers, and students aiming to accurately reference this landmark legislation. The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965, a cornerstone of federal involvement in K-12 education, has undergone numerous reauthorizations, each with its own nuances that can impact how it is cited in APA style. This article provides a comprehensive guide to correctly citing the ESEA in APA 7th Edition, covering its original form and subsequent iterations. We will explore the essential elements required for a proper citation, discuss common pitfalls to avoid, and offer practical examples for various referencing scenarios. Understanding these citation practices ensures academic integrity and facilitates clear communication within scholarly discourse.

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The Significance of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson as part of his "Great Society" initiative, fundamentally reshaped American public education. Its primary goal was to

provide federal financial assistance to schools, particularly those with high concentrations of students from low-income families. This legislation aimed to improve educational opportunities and outcomes for disadvantaged children, recognizing that equitable access to quality education was crucial for social mobility and national progress. The ESEA introduced the concept of federal oversight and funding for curriculum development, teacher training, and support services, shifting the landscape of educational policy significantly.

The impact of the ESEA has been profound and far-reaching. It established numerous programs designed to address educational disparities, including Title I, which remains the largest federal aid program for K-12 schools. Over the decades, the ESEA has been reauthorized and amended multiple times, reflecting evolving educational priorities and challenges. Each reauthorization has built upon or modified the original provisions, leading to different versions of the law that researchers may need to cite. Therefore, precisely identifying and referencing the specific version of the ESEA being discussed is paramount for accurate scholarship.

APA Citation Basics for Legislation

Properly citing legal documents, including legislative acts, requires adherence to specific formatting guidelines. In APA style, the general principle for citing statutes involves identifying the act by its name and year, and often including its codified location. The American Psychological Association (APA) provides clear instructions on how to format these types of sources to ensure clarity and consistency within academic writing. This ensures that readers can locate the exact legal text being referenced.

When citing legislation in APA, the core components typically include the title of the act, the year it was enacted, and sometimes a public law number or its location in the United States Code. The specific details required can vary slightly depending on whether you are referencing the original act or a codification of it. Understanding these fundamental principles is the first step towards accurately constructing an Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 APA citation.

Key Elements of a Legislative Citation

A standard APA citation for a legislative act generally includes the following elements, though they may be presented in a specific order:

- **Act Title:** The official name of the law.
- **Year of Enactment:** The year the law was passed.
- **Public Law Number (if applicable):** A unique identifier for the law, often used for federal legislation.

- **Statute Compilation (if applicable):** The codified location of the law within official legal compilations like the United States Code.

The inclusion of these elements allows for precise identification and retrieval of the legislative text by the reader. For older legislation like the ESEA, some of these components might be more readily available or presented in specific ways.

Distinguishing Between Original Act and Codified Law

It is important to differentiate between citing the original enacted text of a law and citing its inclusion within a statutory compilation. The original act is the text as it was passed by Congress. Codified law refers to how that act, along with others, has been organized and integrated into larger bodies of law, such as the United States Code. For the ESEA, researchers might encounter both forms, and the APA citation will differ accordingly.

Citing the Original Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965

Citing the original Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 requires attention to the specific details of its enactment. As a foundational piece of legislation, it is crucial to reference it in a way that accurately reflects its historical context and legal standing at the time of its passage. The goal is to provide a direct link to the primary source document as it was originally presented.

When referencing the ESEA of 1965 in its original form, the citation will typically focus on the Act's title and the year of its passage. This method emphasizes the legislative act itself rather than its later codification or amendments. This approach is common when discussing the law's initial intent, historical impact, or the foundational provisions established in 1965.

The Standard APA Format for the Original ESEA

The standard APA 7th Edition format for citing the original Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 generally follows the pattern for citing federal statutes. While specific examples can vary slightly based on the exact source consulted (e.g., session laws vs. collected statutes), a common and accepted format would be:

- Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, Pub. L. No. 89-10, 79 Stat. 27 (1965).

Here's a breakdown of what each component signifies:

- **Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965:** This is the official title of the Act.
- **Pub. L. No. 89-10:** This indicates the Public Law number assigned to the Act by Congress. "89" refers to the 89th Congress, and "10" is the 10th Public Law enacted during that session.
- **79 Stat. 27:** This refers to the volume and page number where the Act is published in the Statutes at Large, the official collection of U.S. federal laws. "79" is the volume number, and "27" is the starting page number.
- **(1965):** This is the year the Act was enacted into law.

This format is precise and allows readers to locate the exact original text of the ESEA of 1965.

Where to Find the Original Text

Locating the original text of the ESEA of 1965 is essential for creating an accurate citation. Researchers can typically find this information in several reliable sources. Accessing these primary sources ensures that the citation is based on the definitive version of the law.

- **The Statutes at Large:** This is the official publication of U.S. federal laws. The ESEA of 1965 can be found within the volumes of the Statutes at Large published in 1965.
- **Government Archives and Libraries:** Repositories such as the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) or university law libraries often house collections of U.S. statutes.
- **Online Legal Databases:** Reputable online legal databases that provide access to historical U.S. statutes can also be utilized, ensuring the source is authoritative.

Citing Reauthorizations of the ESEA

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act has not remained static since its inception. It has been reauthorized and amended numerous times by Congress, with each reauthorization often bringing significant changes to the law's structure, programs, and requirements. These subsequent versions of the ESEA, such as No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and the Every Student Succeeds Act

(ESSA), are distinct legislative efforts and require separate citations.

When writing about the ESEA, it is crucial to identify which iteration of the law is being discussed. Citing a reauthorization requires referencing the specific Act that replaced or amended the previous version. This ensures accuracy in reflecting the legal framework under discussion. For instance, citing the provisions of NCLB would necessitate a citation for the NCLB Act, not the original ESEA of 1965.

Key Reauthorizations and Their Citations

Several significant reauthorizations of the ESEA have occurred over the years, each with its own identifying legislation. Researchers must be aware of these to cite them correctly in APA style.

- **No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB):** This was a major reauthorization that significantly altered federal education policy. Its citation would reflect its specific legislative details.
- **Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA):** This act replaced NCLB and represents the most recent comprehensive reauthorization of the ESEA. Its citation will be distinct from both the original ESEA and NCLB.

For example, when citing the NCLB Act, one might refer to the specific Public Law number and its codification in the U.S. Code. Similarly, the ESSA would be cited under its own legislative identifier.

Citing the U.S. Code

Often, when researchers refer to current or modified versions of federal legislation, they cite the United States Code (U.S.C.) rather than the original Public Law as published in the Statutes at Large. The U.S. Code is a compilation of all general and permanent federal laws enacted by Congress. The ESEA and its subsequent reauthorizations are codified within the U.S. Code.

To cite a provision from the U.S. Code, the format generally includes the title number, the abbreviation "U.S.C.," the section number, and the year of the code edition. For instance, a citation might look like:

- 20 U.S.C. § 6301 et seq. (2018).

This example refers to Title 20 of the U.S. Code, which covers Education, specifically a section related to Title I of the ESEA, and the year of the U.S. Code edition used. The "et seq." signifies "and the following sections," indicating a range of related provisions. When citing specific sections of the ESEA or its reauthorizations as they appear in the U.S. Code, this format

is typically used.

Common Challenges in Citing the ESEA

Accurately citing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, especially across its various iterations, can present several challenges for writers. The sheer volume of legislative history, the multiple amendments, and the different ways the law has been codified can lead to confusion. Researchers must be diligent in identifying the precise version of the law they are referencing to avoid misrepresentation.

One common issue is confusing the original 1965 Act with its later reauthorizations like NCLB or ESSA. Each of these is a distinct piece of legislation with its own citation requirements. Failure to differentiate can lead to an inaccurate representation of the legal framework being discussed. Another challenge lies in determining the most appropriate source to cite—whether it's the original Public Law in the Statutes at Large or its codified version in the U.S. Code.

Identifying the Correct Legislative Version

The most critical challenge is correctly identifying which version of the ESEA is being referenced. Was the discussion about the foundational principles laid out in 1965, or is it about the specific mandates and structures introduced by NCLB or ESSA?

- **Historical Context:** When discussing the initial goals and implementation of federal involvement in education, citing the original ESEA of 1965 is appropriate.
- **Policy Analysis:** When analyzing specific educational policies, accountability measures, or funding mechanisms implemented under a particular administration or legislative session, citing the relevant reauthorization (e.g., NCLB or ESSA) is necessary.
- **Legal Research:** For legal analyses of educational law, precise identification of the operative statute at a given time is crucial.

Careful reading and understanding of the content being cited will guide the selection of the correct legislative version.

Navigating Statute Citations

Navigating the intricacies of statute citations can be daunting. Understanding the difference between the Statutes at Large and the United

States Code, and knowing when to use each, is key.

- **Statutes at Large (Stat.):** This is the chronological collection of all laws passed by Congress. Citing the original ESEA often involves referencing its volume and page number in the Stat.
- **United States Code (U.S.C.):** This is a subject arrangement of the laws of the U.S. Federal laws are organized into 54 titles. When referring to the current or modified provisions of the ESEA, its codification within the U.S.C. is commonly cited.

APA style guidelines provide specific instructions for citing both sources. Ensuring the chosen citation reflects the authority and recency of the information is important.

Best Practices for ESEA Citations

To ensure accuracy and maintain academic rigor when citing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and its subsequent reauthorizations, adopting best practices is essential. These practices not only improve the quality of your work but also facilitate clear communication and provide readers with the necessary tools to verify your sources. Adhering to APA style guidelines diligently is the cornerstone of proper citation.

Before beginning to cite, it is highly recommended to consult the official APA Publication Manual. This resource provides the most up-to-date and comprehensive guidance on citing various types of sources, including legal documents. Additionally, understanding the specific context of your research will help determine which version of the ESEA is most relevant and thus, which citation is appropriate.

Consulting Authoritative Sources

Always rely on official and authoritative sources for your citations. This means verifying the details of the legislation through primary legal documents or reputable legal databases.

- **Government Websites:** Official government websites that host legislative texts, such as congress.gov or the Government Publishing Office (GPO) website, are invaluable resources.
- **Legal Databases:** Academic libraries often provide access to legal databases like LexisNexis or Westlaw, which contain comprehensive legislative histories and codified statutes.
- **APA Publication Manual:** The definitive guide for APA style, the manual

offers detailed examples for citing various legal documents.

Using these reliable sources minimizes the risk of errors and ensures that your citations are accurate and verifiable.

Consistency in Formatting

Maintaining consistency in formatting throughout your document is crucial. Once you have determined the appropriate citation format for the ESEA, apply it uniformly for all similar sources within your work.

- **In-Text Citations:** Ensure that your in-text citations accurately correspond to your reference list entries.
- **Reference List Entries:** Format each reference list entry precisely according to APA guidelines, paying close attention to punctuation, capitalization, and italics.
- **Multiple References:** If you cite multiple versions of the ESEA or related legislation, ensure each is cited correctly and distinctly.

Consistency not only adheres to academic standards but also enhances the overall readability and professionalism of your research paper or academic article.

FAQ

Q: How do I cite the original Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 in APA 7th Edition if I am referencing its impact on early educational policies?

A: When referencing the original ESEA of 1965, especially for its foundational impact, the APA 7th Edition citation would typically be: Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, Pub. L. No. 89-10, 79 Stat. 27 (1965). This format identifies the Act by its name, Public Law number, its location in the Statutes at Large, and the year of enactment.

Q: What is the difference between citing the ESEA of 1965 and citing the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001

(NCLB) in APA?

A: The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) is the original legislation, while the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) is a significant reauthorization and amendment of the ESEA. NCLB is a separate piece of legislation and would be cited under its own legislative identifier, for example, as the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Pub. L. No. 107-110, 115 Stat. 1425 (2002). The APA citation for each reflects its distinct legislative identity.

Q: Can I cite the ESEA of 1965 by its U.S. Code citation, or should I always use the Statutes at Large?

A: While the original ESEA of 1965 is most accurately cited using its Public Law number and Statutes at Large reference, its provisions are also codified in the United States Code (U.S.C.). If you are referencing the law as it appears in its current codified form or discussing specific sections as they are maintained in the U.S. Code, you would use the U.S. Code citation. For instance, Title 20 of the U.S. Code contains much of the ESEA's language. However, for historical accuracy of the original act, the Statutes at Large citation is preferred.

Q: How should I cite a specific section of the ESEA as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) in APA 7th Edition?

A: To cite a specific section of the ESEA as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) in APA 7th Edition, you would generally cite the U.S. Code. For example, if you are referencing a provision within Title I of the ESEA as it exists under ESSA, a citation might look like: 20 U.S.C. § 6301 (2018). You should include the specific section number and the year of the U.S. Code edition you consulted.

Q: What if I'm citing a secondary source that discusses the ESEA of 1965, not the original text?

A: If you are citing a secondary source (like a book or journal article) that discusses the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, you would cite the secondary source itself according to APA guidelines, not the ESEA directly. For example, if a book chapter discusses the ESEA, your citation in the reference list would be for the book, and your in-text citation would refer to the author and year of the book. You would only cite the ESEA directly if you were quoting or paraphrasing from the actual text of the law.

Q: Are there specific rules for citing amendments to the ESEA of 1965 in APA that differ from citing the original act?

A: Yes, amendments are treated as part of the legislative history. If you are referring to an amendment as a distinct legislative act, you would cite that specific amendment as a public law. However, if the amendment has been incorporated into the U.S. Code, citing the relevant section of the U.S. Code is often more practical and common for contemporary research. The key is to ensure your citation points to the version of the law you are referencing.

Q: What are the common mistakes to avoid when creating an Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 APA citation?

A: Common mistakes include confusing the original 1965 Act with its reauthorizations (like NCLB or ESSA), incorrectly using the Statutes at Large citation when the U.S. Code is more appropriate for the context, and failing to include all necessary components of the citation (Public Law number, volume/page, year, or U.S. Code reference). Inconsistency in formatting and using outdated editions of legal compilations are also frequent errors.

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