Citing Figures in APA Format

Many types of figures can help you present data to the reader, including graphs, charts, maps, drawings, and photographs. A good figure contains elements that are large enough to be read easily. Here are some guidelines on creating and citing your figure:

- In professional writing, figures are generally included on a separate page at the end of your document, after any tables (or after the reference list, if there are no tables). However, in college writing, some instructors prefer figures to be included and cited in the body of the essay. Check with your instructor or refer to the assignment instructions for his or her preferences.

- Above each figure, provide a number and a brief title (see example on the back).

- Beneath the figure, add a caption by typing Figure X (in this example, X represents your figure number) in italics, followed by a period. Immediately begin your caption here. Captions serve as a brief, but complete, explanation of the figure.

- If your figure contains units of measurement, symbols, or abbreviations that are not defined in the figure itself, include a legend with the caption that explains them (see example on the back).

  *Graphs should always include a legend that explains the symbols, abbreviations, and terminology used in the figure. These terms must be consistent with those used in the text and in other figures. The lettering in the legend should be of the same type and size as that used in the figure.

- The last element of the caption or legend should be an appropriate source citation (see example on back). Place article, chapter, section, or webpage titles in quotation marks. Use italics for book, journal, or website titles. Include page numbers, when available, and copyright information. The citation should begin with “Adapted from” followed by: the article/chapter/section/webpage title, the author’s name(s), year of publication, then the journal/book/website title, volume # (for journals), page number, and copyright info. Example citations:

  Adapted from “Prepare to be Completely Grossed Out: Ever Heard of Cuterebra? (Gag!)” by D. Lichtenberg, 2012, Pets Advisor, n. p. Copyright 2015 by Super Copy Editors LLC.


  See complete figure examples on the back of this handout…
Example figures:

Figure 1. Size Comparison for Feline Cuterebra

*Figure 1.* Cuterebra from a very young kitten compared to a U. S. quarter. Adapted from “Prepare to be Completely Grossed Out: Ever Heard of Cuterebra? (Gag!)” by D. Lichtenberg, 2012, *Pets Advisor*, n. p. Copyright 2015 by Super Copy Editors LLC.

Figure 3. Graph of Number of Ready to Drink Premixes Sold in New Zealand 2004-2009

*Figure 3.* Trade volume of ready to drink high strength premixes sold in New Zealand, measured in 1000 liters. Retrieved from http://www.euromonitor.com. Copyright 2010 by Euromonitor International.

If you have any questions or need more information, please consult our more extensive APA packet or make an appointment at owl.tulsacc.edu.