

how to cite clifton strengthsfinder assessment apa

how to cite clifton strengthsfinder assessment apa is a common query among students, researchers, and professionals who incorporate results from this popular strengths assessment tool into their academic or professional work. The Clifton StrengthsFinder, now known as CliftonStrengths, is a proprietary assessment developed by Gallup that identifies an individual's unique strengths. Proper citation in APA format is essential to maintain academic integrity and to provide clear attribution to the original source. This article will explore the appropriate ways to reference the Clifton StrengthsFinder assessment in APA style, including in-text citations and reference list entries. Additionally, it will cover nuances such as citing the assessment manual, online reports, and unpublished results. Understanding these guidelines ensures accurate and consistent documentation in research papers, theses, dissertations, and professional reports. The following sections will guide readers through the step-by-step process of citing the Clifton StrengthsFinder assessment in APA format.

- Understanding the Clifton StrengthsFinder Assessment
- General APA Citation Guidelines for Assessments
- How to Cite the Clifton StrengthsFinder Assessment in APA
- Citing the Assessment Manual and Related Publications
- Examples of In-Text Citations and Reference List Entries
- Common Mistakes and Tips for Accurate Citation

Understanding the Clifton StrengthsFinder Assessment

The Clifton StrengthsFinder assessment, developed by Gallup, is a psychometric tool designed to identify and measure an individual's natural talents and strengths. Originally published as part of the book "Now, Discover Your Strengths" by Marcus Buckingham and Donald O. Clifton, the assessment has evolved into an online platform offering personalized reports. Users take the assessment to gain insight into their top strengths out of 34 possible themes, which can guide personal development and career planning. As this tool is proprietary and requires purchase or access through Gallup, it is important to note that the original source is the Gallup organization. When citing this assessment, it is crucial to acknowledge both the creators

and the platform to provide proper credit and facilitate source verification.

General APA Citation Guidelines for Assessments

APA style provides specific guidance for citing tests, assessments, and measurement tools to ensure clear attribution. According to the APA Publication Manual (7th edition), tests or assessments that are not publicly available or retrievable by readers should be cited as personal communications in-text only and not included in the reference list. However, if the assessment is published or available online, it should be referenced fully. Key elements for citing assessments include the author or organization, year of publication, title of the assessment, version or edition (if applicable), and source or URL if accessible. Understanding these general principles helps in adapting the citation format to fit the Clifton StrengthsFinder assessment properly.

When to Cite as Personal Communication

Assessments that are administered privately and whose results are not publicly accessible—such as individual reports from the Clifton StrengthsFinder—are considered personal communications. In APA style, personal communications are cited only in-text since they do not provide recoverable data for readers. For example, when referencing specific results from a personal assessment, the citation would include the communicator's name and the date of communication.

When to Provide Full Reference List Entry

If the assessment is published in a manual, book, or online platform accessible to others, it is appropriate to include a full citation in the reference list. This allows readers to locate and understand the source material. For the Clifton StrengthsFinder, this typically involves citing the Gallup organization as the author and the official title of the assessment or accompanying publication.

How to Cite the Clifton StrengthsFinder Assessment in APA

Citing the Clifton StrengthsFinder assessment in APA depends on whether the source is the online assessment report, the original book, or the assessment manual. The most common scenario is referencing the online assessment from Gallup, which requires acknowledging Gallup as the author and including the year of the version used. Since the assessment is proprietary and requires access, including the URL to Gallup's official site is recommended if allowed. If the citation is for the original book or manual describing the

assessment, the citation format changes accordingly.

Citing the Online Clifton StrengthsFinder Assessment

For the online version of CliftonStrengths, the citation generally includes the organization as author, year of the report or access, title of the assessment in italics, and the retrieval information. Because the assessment is updated periodically, use the year corresponding to the version you accessed or the report was generated. The format resembles that of an online test or instrument.

Sample Format for Online Assessment

- **Author:** Gallup, Inc.
- **Year:** Year of the assessment or report
- **Title:** CliftonStrengths assessment [Assessment]
- **Source:** Retrieval information or URL (if applicable)

Citing the Original Book or Manual

If referencing the book "Now, Discover Your Strengths" by Buckingham and Clifton, which introduced the StrengthsFinder, the citation follows standard book format. This is appropriate when discussing the theory or development behind the assessment rather than the test results.

Citing the Assessment Manual and Related Publications

Gallup has published various manuals and guides related to the Clifton StrengthsFinder assessment. When these materials are used as sources, they should be cited as books or reports depending on publication type. Include author(s), publication year, title in italics, edition if applicable, and publisher information. Proper citation of these materials enhances the credibility of academic or professional work referencing the assessment.

Examples of Assessment Manuals and Their Citation

Assessment manuals often contain detailed descriptions of the instrument,

scoring, and interpretation guidelines. When citing these, it is important to specify the edition and publisher to allow accurate identification. For instance, a manual published by Gallup would list Gallup as the author and publisher.

Sample Citation for an Assessment Manual

- Author(s): Gallup, Inc.
- Year of Publication
- Title of Manual (*italicized*)
- Edition (if applicable)
- Publisher

Examples of In-Text Citations and Reference List Entries

To ensure clarity, below are examples illustrating how to cite the Clifton StrengthsFinder assessment in APA format in both in-text citations and reference list entries. These examples cover different scenarios to accommodate various uses of the assessment.

In-Text Citation Examples

- For personal communication: (D. Smith, personal communication, March 3, 2023)
- For online assessment: (Gallup, Inc., 2022)
- When citing the original book: (Buckingham & Clifton, 2001)

Reference List Examples

- Gallup, Inc. (2022). *CliftonStrengths assessment* [Assessment]. Gallup. <https://www.gallup.com/cliftonstrengths>
- Buckingham, M., & Clifton, D. O. (2001). *Now, discover your strengths*.

Free Press.

- Gallup, Inc. (2017). *CliftonStrengths for students assessment manual* (2nd ed.). Gallup Press.

Common Mistakes and Tips for Accurate Citation

Accurate citation of the Clifton StrengthsFinder assessment in APA requires attention to detail and adherence to style guidelines. Common mistakes include omitting the author (Gallup), failing to specify the version or year, and incorrectly citing personal communications as retrievable sources. It is important to distinguish between citing the assessment itself and citing personal results or interpretations.

Tips for Proper Citation

1. Always list Gallup, Inc. as the author when citing the assessment or related materials.
2. Include the year corresponding to the version or publication date of the source.
3. Use italics for the title of the assessment or book.
4. Provide retrieval information if the assessment is accessed online and publicly available.
5. Do not include personal assessment results in the reference list; cite these as personal communications in-text only.
6. Review the latest APA Publication Manual or official resources for updates or changes in citation format.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I cite the Clifton StrengthsFinder assessment in APA format?

In APA format, you can cite the Clifton StrengthsFinder assessment as a personal communication since it is a proprietary tool. For example: (Gallup, personal communication, Year). If referencing the official book, cite it as

Gallup (2001) or the latest edition.

What is the correct APA reference entry for the Clifton StrengthsFinder book?

The APA reference for the Clifton StrengthsFinder book is: Rath, T. (2007). **StrengthsFinder 2.0**. Gallup Press.

Can I include the Clifton StrengthsFinder assessment results as a source in my APA references?

No, personal assessment results like Clifton StrengthsFinder are considered personal communications in APA and should be cited only in-text, not included in the reference list. For example: (D. Smith, personal communication, March 5, 2023).

How do I cite the online Clifton StrengthsFinder assessment in APA style?

Since the Clifton StrengthsFinder assessment is an online proprietary tool without a retrievable source, cite it as a personal communication in-text only: (Gallup, personal communication, Year). If referring to the website, you can cite: Gallup. (Year). **CliftonStrengths**. <https://www.gallup.com/cliftonstrengths>.

Is there a specific DOI or URL to include when citing Clifton StrengthsFinder in APA?

No specific DOI exists for the Clifton StrengthsFinder assessment itself. When citing the book or the official website, include the URL for the website but not for the assessment results. For the book, no URL is needed unless accessed online.

Additional Resources

1. Mastering APA Citations for Psychological Assessments

This book offers comprehensive guidance on citing psychological tests, including the Clifton StrengthsFinder, in APA style. It covers the latest edition of the APA Publication Manual and provides examples for in-text citations and reference list entries. Readers will find practical tips for accurately crediting various assessment tools in academic writing.

2. The Essential Guide to APA Style for Psychometric Instruments

Focused on psychometric and personality assessments, this guide explains the nuances of citing instruments like the Clifton StrengthsFinder within APA format. It includes detailed instructions on referencing manuals, online resources, and proprietary assessments. The book is ideal for students,

researchers, and practitioners needing precise citation methods.

3. Citing Psychological Assessments: APA Style Made Simple

This resource simplifies the process of citing psychological assessments, emphasizing clarity and accuracy in APA style. The book breaks down citation rules with examples related to popular instruments such as the Clifton StrengthsFinder. It also discusses ethical considerations when referencing proprietary tools.

4. APA Citation Handbook for Strengths-Based Assessments

An authoritative handbook that focuses on strengths-based psychology tools, including the Clifton StrengthsFinder, offering step-by-step citation instructions. The text highlights common challenges and solutions when documenting these assessments in scholarly work. It is a valuable reference for both novice and experienced writers.

5. Writing and Citing in Psychology: The APA Approach to Assessments

This book bridges writing skills and APA citation rules specifically for psychological assessments. It provides context for the Clifton StrengthsFinder and similar tools, ensuring users understand how to integrate these citations seamlessly into their papers. The guide also covers paraphrasing and direct quoting practices.

6. APA Style for Personality and Strengths Assessments

Designed for researchers citing personality and strengths evaluations, this manual details APA formatting for assessments like the Clifton StrengthsFinder. It includes sample citations, tips on avoiding plagiarism, and guidance on citing test manuals and online sources. The content supports clear and ethical academic writing.

7. How to Cite Assessments in APA: A Practical Guide

This practical guide demystifies the process of citing a wide range of assessments, including the Clifton StrengthsFinder, using APA style. It offers easy-to-follow examples, troubleshooting advice, and updates reflecting the newest APA manual edition. The resource is perfect for students and professionals alike.

8. Research Writing and APA Citations for Psychological Testing

Targeted at researchers, this book focuses on integrating psychological tests such as the Clifton StrengthsFinder into APA-formatted research papers. It explains citation standards for proprietary assessments and discusses how to reference unpublished or proprietary materials. Readers gain confidence in accurate and ethical citation.

9. APA Citation Essentials for StrengthsFinder and Related Tools

This concise manual provides essential information on citing the Clifton StrengthsFinder and related strengths-based instruments in APA style. It includes exemplar citations for test manuals, websites, and reports, helping writers maintain consistency and professionalism in their references. The book is a handy quick-reference tool for academic writing.

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