

Comparison of MLA and APA Formats

Signal Phrases and In-Text Citations

MLA--used for English & Humanities

APA—used for Social Sciences

<p>Signal phrases required →always in present or present-perfect tense. Ex: Johnson writes. . . or Johnson has written. . .</p> <p>Use author’s last name, not first name.</p> <p>Signal phrase word bank on p. 523 of <i>Everyone’s an Author</i></p>	<p>Signal phrases required→always in past or present perfect tense. Year of publication follows author’s last name. Ex: Smith(2014) claimed . . . or Smith (2014) has claimed . . .</p> <p>When reporting study results or widely established facts, use present tense. Ex: The results show . . . or Scientists agree . . .</p> <p>Signal phrases are not required with a statistic or fact. Ex: Drugs cost \$3 per day on average (Duenwald, 2004).</p> <p>When in doubt, use a signal phrase—it’s not wrong.</p>
<p>Parenthetical citations must include author’s last name and page number(s) if available. Ex: (Williams 27).</p>	<p>Parenthetical citations must include author’s last name and year of publication. Ex: (Williams, 2009). Page numbers, if available, are used only for direct quotes. Use p. for one page and pp. for a range. Ex: (Williams, 2009, pp.2-3)</p>
<p>If there is no author, use the title in the parenthetical citation. Long titles can be abbreviated.</p>	<p>Same as MLA</p>

Manuscript Format

MLA

APA

<p>No title page. Name, instructor, course title & date go on separate lines in the upper left corner of the first page. Title centered horizontally above first line of text.</p>	<p>Usually has a title page. Full title centered vertically and horizontally. Author’s name and school name follow title on separate lines. Bottom of page may have “Author’s Note” with information such as course and instructor’s name.</p>
<p>Student’s last name & pg. # printed in upper right corner of every page</p>	<p>Has a running header. Title page has the words “Running head,” followed by a colon and the title of your paper (shortened to no more than fifty characters) in all capital letters aligned with the left margin. The shortened title is repeated on every page (without the words “Running Head”). Every page has a page number flush with the right margin.</p>
<p>1 inch margins, left-aligned, double-spaced, 12 point</p>	<p>Same as MLA</p>
<p>No headings</p>	<p>Headings encouraged for each section (centered/bolded)</p>
<p>Indent each paragraph .5 in.</p>	<p>Same as MLA</p>

List of Citations

MLA

APA

Is titled Works Cited	Is titled References
Double spaced, aligned left with a hanging indent, alphabetized	Same as MLA
First author listed as last name, first name. Ex: Welty, Eudora. Second author listed as first name last name. Ex: Harris, Ellen, and Susan Smith.	Authors listed as last name, initial(s). Ex: Welty, E. Lists up to seven authors; an ampersand precedes the last author
If more than two authors, list only first author followed by "et al." Ex: Kramer, Rebecca, et al.	For more than seven authors, list the first six authors, then insert an ellipsis (. . .), and then the name of the last author.
Book titles in italics; capitalize every important word in title and subtitle. Ex: <i>Brewing Justice: Fair Trade Coffee, Sustainability, and Survival</i>	Book titles in italics; capitalize only the first word in the title, the first word in the subtitle, acronyms, and proper nouns. Ex: <i>Brewing justice: Fair trade coffee, sustainability, and survival</i>
Article titles in quotation marks; capitalization rules are the same as for book titles. Ex: "Coffee Consumption and Cardiovascular Health."	Article titles without quotation marks; capitalization rules are the same as for book titles. Ex: Coffee consumption and cardiovascular health.
Year of publication is located toward the end of the citation.	Year of publication follows the name(s) of the author(s).
Requires the name of the database an article was retrieved from and a DOI if available. Put a period after the DOI.	Does not require the name of the database. Requires DOI if available. Ex: doi: 10.1044/2015_AJA-15-0021
If a DOI is unavailable, use a stable URL to the article.	If a DOI is not available, use a stable URL. For journal articles, the URL is that of the journal's homepage. Requires Retrieved from before the URL. Ex: Retrieved from http://civil-engineering.asce.org
Always put a period at the end of the citation.	Do not put a period after the URL or DOI. Otherwise, do end the citation with a period.

APA

Anderson, A. K. (2005). Affective influences on the attentional dynamics supporting awareness. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 154, 258-281. Doi: 10.1037/0096-3445.134.2.258

MLA

Chan, Evans. "'Postmodernism and Hong Kong Cinema.'" *Postmodern Culture*, vol. 10, no. 3, May 2000. *Project Muse*, doi: 10.1353/pmc.2000.0021.