

## MLA and APA Citation Formats

Clearly documenting one's sources is a central aspect of scholarly and scientific research (of which higher education is a part). While it is assumed that writers of such academic work will draw upon the discoveries, ideas, speculations, and concerns of previous written research, it is important that careful use of a citation system indicates when writers are drawing upon these other sources (books, articles, videos, websites, interviews, etc.) to clarify which information originates from an outside source and which information expresses the writers' own ideas, findings, analyses, opinions, etc. Moreover, correct documentation helps establish that writers are effective and conscientious researchers, which in turn gives strength and validity to the writers' argument.

Two common citation systems are the Modern Language Association of America (MLA) and the American Psychological Association (APA). MLA format is generally used when writing English documented essays in literature, language arts, and humanities. One goal of MLA format is minimize paper clutter and maximize readability. As such, an in-text citation includes only enough information to find the citation in the complete list of works cited at the end of the paper. No commas or page abbreviations are included in the in-text reference; all that is important is the author and page number.

Research papers written in psychology and other similar fields generally employ APA format. In these scientific fields, the timeliness of the research is directly related to the validity of the research and date of the source is relevant and used in the in-text citation. In these applications in-text citations are quite comprehensive and include author's name, year of publication, and page abbreviations with the page numbers. [Example: (Coleman, 2003, p.1)]

The following handout demonstrates sample citations in both MLA and APA format. A worksheet is also provided to practice switching between the two formats. Complete information on these documentation formats can be found in the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* and the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*.

Source Type	APA References	MLA Works Cited
Book: 3 <sup>rd</sup> Edition	Bolinger, D. & Sears, D.A. (1981). <i>Aspects of language</i> (3 <sup>rd</sup> ed.). New York: Harcourt Brace.	Bolinger, Dwight and Donald A. Sears. <i>Aspects of Language</i> . 3 <sup>rd</sup> ed. New York: Harcourt Brace, 1981.
Journal	Bynack, V.P. (1984). Noah Webster and the idea of a national culture: The pathologies of epistemology. <i>Journal of the History of Ideas</i> . 45(1), 99-114.	Bynack, Vincent P. "Noah Webster and the Idea of a National Culture: The Pathologies of Epistemology". <i>Journal of the History of Ideas</i> . 45.1 (1984): 99-114.
Book	Cooper, J.F. (2001). <i>The last of the Mohicans</i> . New York: Modern Library.	Cooper, James Fenimore. <i>The Last of the Mohicans</i> . New York: Modern Library, 2001.
Anthology	North, S.M. (1995). The idea of a writing center. In C. Murphy & S. Sherwood (Eds.), <i>The St. Martin's Source Book for Writing Tutors</i> (pp.22-36) New York: St. Martin's Press.	North, Stephen M. "The Idea of a Writing Center." <i>The St. Martin's Source Book for Writing Tutors</i> . Eds. Christina Murphy and Steve Sherwood. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1995. 22-36.
Online Magazine Article	Peysner, M. (2002). 'Hairspray' hits Broadway. <i>Newsweek</i> , August 26. Retrieved August 17, 2002, from <a href="http://www.msnbc.com/news/795504.asp">http://www.msnbc.com/news/795504.asp</a> .	Peysner, Mark. "'Hairspray' Hits Broadway." <i>Newsweek</i> . 26 August 2002. 17 August 2002. < <a href="http://www.msnbe.com/news/795504.asp">http://www.msnbe.com/news/795504.asp</a> >.
Book, Author, Translator, Editors	Tolstoy, L. (1994). <i>Anna Karenina</i> . (Garnett, C., Trans. Kent, L.J. & Berberova, N., Eds.). New York: Modern Library. (Original work published 1877).	Tolstoy, Leo. <i>Anna Karenina</i> . Trans. Constance Garnett. Ed. Leonard J. Kent and Nina Berberova. New York: Modern Library, 1994.

Source Type	APA Citations	MLA Citations
Book: 3rd edition	Author Name- Last, Initial & Last, Initial. (Year). <i>Title-Italicized only first letter capitalized.</i> (# ed.).City of publication: Publisher.  <b>Note: 6 or fewer authors are listed; after 6 authors, use et al.</b>	Author Name-Last, First and First Last. <i>Book Title-Italicized Major Words Capitalized.</i> # ed. City of publication: Publisher, Year.  <b>Note- 3 or fewer authors listed; after 3 authors, use et al.</b>
Journal	Author. (Year). Article Title: First word capitalized: First word subtitle capitalized. <i>Journal: Italicized &amp; Capitalized.</i> Volume (Issue), pages.	Author. "Article Title: Major Words Capitalized." <i>Journal Title: Italicized Major Words Capitalized.</i> Volume. Issue (Year): page numbers.
Book :	Author. (Year). <i>Title.</i> City: Publisher.	Author. <i>Title.</i> City: Publisher, Year.
Anthology	Author. (Year). Article title. In Initial Last Name & Initial Name (Eds.), <i>Book Title.</i> (pp. #-#-#).City: Publisher.	Author. "Article Title." <i>Book Title.</i> Eds. First Last Name and First Last Name. City: Publisher, Year. Page numbers.
Online Article	Author. (Year). Article title. <i>Journal Title,</i> Month and day. Retrieved month day year, from URL.	Author. "Article Title." <i>Journal Title.</i> Day Month Year of Journal. Day Month Year online. <URL>.
Book: Author, Translator, Editors	Author. (Year). <i>Book Title.</i> (Last Name, Initial, Trans. Last Name, Initial & Last Name, Initial, Eds.). City: Publisher. (Original work published year).	Author. <i>Book Title.</i> Trans. First Last Name. Ed. First Last Name and First Last Name. City: Publisher, Year.

**Using the given source as reference, complete the MLA or APA Citation that is missing.**

Source	APA Reference Page	MLA Works Cited
Book: one author, Multiple editions	Baker, S. (1990). <i>The practical stylist</i> . (7 <sup>th</sup> ed.). New York: Harper.	
Journal: one author, separate pagination		Harris, Muriel. "Talking in the Middle: Why Writers Need Writing Tutors." <i>College English</i> .57.1 (1995): 27-41.
Book: Anthology, author, editor	Gilman, C.P. (2000). Yellow Wallpaper. In S. Rebecca (Ed.), <i>Out of her mind</i> (pp.32-49). New York: Modern Library. (Original work published 1892).	
Online magazine		Schein, Alan. "Down the Drain." <i>National Geographic Magazine</i> . September 2002. 22 August 2002. < <a href="http://magma.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/0209/feature2/online_extra/html">http://magma.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/0209/feature2/online_extra/html</a> >.
Translated Book, author, editor	Dumas, A. (1996). <i>The Count of Monte Cristo</i> . (Buss, R. Trans.). New York: Penguin. (Original work published 1844-1845)	