

COMPARING MLA AND APA CITATION STYLES

Here are some ways in which MLA and APA Citation styles are different:

	MLA (Modern Language Association)	APA (American Psychological Association)
Authors/editors	Spells out available names. If more than 3 list first and "et al."	Uses last name and first initial. Lists all authors up to and including seven.
Titles	Capitalizes every important word; book and journal titles italicized	Capitalizes first word of title and of the subtitle; book and journal titles italicized
Publisher	Shortens name	Uses full name
Place of publication	City always listed; state included only when necessary for clarification	City always listed; state included only when necessary for clarification
Pages	Uses + for pages after the first one	Lists first page and additional pages
Dates	Placed at end of citation; for web sources include date of access.	Follows author's name; no date of access needed for most web sources.
Indentions	First line is flush with left margin, second and subsequent lines are indented	First line is flush with left margin, second and subsequent lines are indented
Parenthetical Citation in Text	Uses author name and page for both direct quotations and paraphrase	Uses author name, date of publication, and page number for direct quotations, but for paraphrase page number is not required
Medium	Adds medium: Print, Web, DVD, Radio, etc.	Does not include medium

Here are some examples of MLA and APA citations for the same source document:

	MLA	APA
Books	Gibaldi, Joseph. <i>MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers</i> . 6th ed. New York: MLA, 2003. Print.	Gibaldi, J. (2003) <i>MLA handbook for writers of research papers</i> . 6th ed. New York: MLA.
Journal articles	Donaldson, Scott. "Protecting the Troops from Hemingway: An Episode in Censorship." <i>The Hemingway Review</i> 15 (1995): 87-93. Print.	Donaldson, S. (1995). Protecting the troops from hemingway: an episode in censorship. <i>The Hemingway Review</i> , 15, 87-93.
Article from databases	Anderson, John. "Superego." <i>Journal of Psychology</i> October 2003: 41. Academic Search Elite. EBSCOhost. Web. 10 November 2003.	Anderson, J. (2003, October) Superego. <i>Journal of Psychology</i> , 41.
Quotes and in-text citations	<p>In the paper you must cite the source in parentheses with the author's last name and page number of the source used at the end of the sentence. Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> While learning to do research for your academic classes, you will gain skills that will prepare you to do research in your career within business, government, or other professional areas (Gibaldi 5). <input type="checkbox"/> Gibaldi describes...and he also writes "this handbook is a guide for the preparation of research papers" (5). 	<p>In the paper you must cite the author and date in the appropriate place within the text or at end of the sentence. Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Anderson (1984) urges roommates to settle differences... <input type="checkbox"/> In her list of rules for roommates (Anderson, 1984)... <input type="checkbox"/> She stated, "The list of rules... in this manner" (Anderson, 1984, p. 198), but she still was upset.
Citation List	This page must be titled <i>Works Cited</i> .	This page must be titled <i>Reference(s)</i> .

Source referenced: *The Purdue OWL*. Purdue U Writing Lab, 2008. Web. 28 Oct. 2009.

For more examples of MLA, APA, Chicago, and ASA Styles, see <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>.