

MLA (Modern Language Association) is for arts and humanities. It helps you to break down citing paintings, books, and other literature. **APA** (American Psychological Association) is designed for technical works found in social sciences.

The most obvious difference that you'll see in an MLA paper and an APA paper is the title of the citation page. Papers written in MLA format will have a [Works Cited page](#). The [APA citation page](#), on the other hand, will be labeled References. Both titles will be centered at the top of the page and the list of references will be double spaced. The title is an easy way to know which one you are looking at.

MLA

Author's name in MLA will take the format: Last Name, First Name
Henry, John

The formatting of the author will vary based on how many there are. Two authors will be written out with an "and" separating them. With three or more authors, you'll include the first author and then et al., which is Latin for "and others."

Two Authors:

Gillespie, Paula and Neal Lerner

Three or More Authors:

Gillespie, Paula, et al. (same for in-text citation)

APA

In [APA format](#), you only write out the last name followed by the first and middle initial.
Henry, J.

Two Authors:

Gillespie, P. H., & Lerner, N.

Title capitalization is important to style. MLA goes for header capitalization where every major word in the title is capitalized. Also called title case, this looks like:

Gleason, Jeff. Chaos: A Look at the Stars. RedRiver, 2010.

APA takes its own road. In APA, book titles and such will only capitalize the first word.

This is sometimes called sentence case:

Gleason, J. (2010). Chaos: a look at the stars. RedRiver.

MLA

Paraphrase or non-quoted reference

Fifi's life was always flamboyant, but she remarked once that the year 1920 was her most marvelous year (LaRue 39).

Author's name mentioned in the sentence

Fifi LaRue remarked in her autobiography that she looked fondly on the year 1920 as one of the most remarkable of her life (39).

Direct quote

Fifi remarked in her autobiography, “I fondly remember 1920 as ‘L’anné Merveilleuse de Fifi” (LaRue 39). LaRue remarked in her autobiography, “I fondly remember 1920 as ‘L’anné Merveilleuse de Fifi” (39).

Exceptions:

MLA: When you have a book with a different edition, mention it after the title (4th ed)

Books with no author (title. Publisher, year)/ in-text citation (title page)

Translated source: (author’s last name, first name. Title. Translated by..., publisher, year)

In-text citation (original author’s name page)

Book chapter: autho’s last name, first name. “Title of the chapt”. Book title, edited by .. and ..., publisher, year, pp..

From a website: add the link + date of access.

dictionary: author name. “The word”. Encyclopedia, date, publisher. Link with access date. If there is no author start with the name.

For Journal article: name. “Title of artc”. Journal name, vol.5, no.2, year, pp. 55-65.

Chicago Style: author-date style

Author/Date Style	In-text Citation	Bibliography
A book	(Pollan 2006, 99-100)	Pollan, Michael. 2006. <i>The Omnivore’s Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals</i> . New York: Penguin.
An article in a print journal	(Weinstein 2009, 440)	Weinstein, Joshua I. 2009. “The Market in Plato’s Republic.” <i>Classical Philology</i> 104:439-58.
An article in an electronic journal	(Kossinets and Watts 2009, 411)	Kossinets, Gueorgi, and Duncan J. Watts. 2009. “Origins of Homophily in an Evolving Social Network.” <i>American Journal of Sociology</i> 115:405-50. Accessed February 28, 2010. doi:10.1086/599247.
A website	(Google 2009)	Google. 2009. “Google Privacy Policy.” Last modified March 11. http://www.google.com/intl/en/privacypolicy.html .