<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MLA: Modern Language Association</th>
<th>Similarities/ Differences</th>
<th>APA: American Psychological Association</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Typically used in the humanities and liberal arts. (e.g.: English, theatre, fine arts, film studies, language studies)</td>
<td>Papers are double spaced, word processed in a regular 12pt. font, include a reference or works cited page, and citations are unnumbered and have hanging indent.</td>
<td>Typically used in the social sciences and health sciences. (e.g.: psychology, sociology, social work, nursing, and education)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of research material at the end titled: <strong>Works Cited</strong></td>
<td>ALL material cited, referenced, or quoted must be cited on the final page.</td>
<td>List of research material at the end titled: <strong>References</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On the Works Cited, the names of authors are cited: Last name, first name. (ex: Hacker, Diane) If there is more than one author, list the first author: last name first; all subsequent authors first name first, last name last.</td>
<td>All borrowed information MUST be cited. In MLA, if there are three or more authors, list the first author followed by the abbreviation, et. al. Same in APA, EXCEPT, list up to seven authors before using et. al.</td>
<td>On Reference page, list the author’s last name first followed by initials only. (Hacker, D.) If there is more than one author, list ALL authors last name followed by initials.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On the Works Cited page, capitalize the titles of articles, journal titles, movies, book chapters, etc. in title case, all major words capitalized and within quotation marks. Example: “Writing with Teachers: A Conversation with Peter Elbow.”</td>
<td>This is often confusing to folks used to MLA when they switch to APA. Note that the capitalization and italics rules are still the same in APA in regard to journal titles.</td>
<td>On the Reference page, capitalize the titles of books, book chapters, and journal articles according to sentence case and without quotation marks. Example: Writing with teachers: A conversation with Peter Elbow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When information is cited and author’s name is included in the sentence, place the page number at the end of the sentence. Example: <strong>Diana Hacker advises students on how to avoid plagiarism (360-361).</strong></td>
<td>MLA and APA both use parenthetical citations within the body of the paper. MLA: (Hacker 361) APA: (Hacker, 2011, p. 361-360) APA without page number: (Hacker, 2011) Note the punctuation differences in MLA and APA. In APA in-text citations, commas separate the year from the author’s last name, and there is a period after the</td>
<td>When the author’s name is included in the sentence, place the date goes directly after that individual’s name. Example: <strong>Hacker (2009) advises students about how to avoid plagiarism.</strong> If using a direct quote, include the page number. Example: <strong>Hacker (2011) offers this advice on avoiding plagiarism, “resist the temptation to look at the source as you take notes” (p. 361).</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If the author’s name is not used in the sentence, the citation occurs at the end of the sentence and looks like this:</td>
<td></td>
<td>When information is cited and the author’s name is not in the sentence, place both name and date at the end of the sentence. If paraphrased or summarized, page</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Example: *Looking at source material when paraphrasing or summarizing increases the likelihood that one will be tempted to borrow language* (*Hacker 361-361*).

This should look the same regardless of whether the cited information is directly quoted, paraphrased, or summarized.

Both styles emphasize the need to include in-text citations with ANY borrowed material.

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**MLA** asks for publisher name, publication date, and page numbers. If those are not available, then leave the information out.

URL should be listed as part of a web citation following the “publication date,” Include a DOI instead of a URL if available.

Access Dates are no longer required for web based sources.

Both MLA and APA include URLs in web citations and DOIs if available.

APA requires the citation to include a “source type” or descriptive label: blog, audio file, podcast, abstract, etc.

URL should be listed as part of the citation on the reference page following the words, “Retrieved From:”

Online journal articles and articles accessed through a database require a DOI (digital object identifier)

Retrieval dates are only necessary if there is no date for web based sources.

Quotes four lines or longer are blocked, meaning the text should be tabbed one tab over or five spaces.

Quotes should be integrated smoothly and introduce with proper transitions. Do not just drop in quotes without a lead in or explanation.

Quotes 40 words or more are indented one tab or five spaces.

Paraphrasing is preferred; direct quotes should be used sparingly

Focus tends to lie on authorship, individuals, and theory.

Both rely on accurate information presented in clear concise academic English.

Focus tends towards research methods, findings, and dates

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This handout was compiled using resources created by the University Writing Center at ASU and *MLA Handbook* Eighth Edition.


*This handout is meant to be an overview and in no way should replace the use of a comprehensive resource such as the official MLA or APA handbook.*