

# ENG301 – MLA AND APA CITING BASICS

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# MLA AND APA OVERVIEW

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Documentation styles like MLA (Modern Language Association) and APA (American Psychological Association) were created by certain fields to provide a common set of rules for crediting primary and secondary sources. The differences between them are due to the different needs of the users, such as the need for APA readers to know how timely the source is.

They share several characteristics: A need to know the author(s), titles, source and type of publication, and how and where we can find the source.

The title of the page (Works Cited for MLA and References for APA) tell the reader which style you are using.



# IN-TEXT CITATIONS

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- MLA, author named in the sentence: Smith says, “Quote” (page or paragraph #).
- MLA, author NOT named in the sentence: “Quote” (Smith 209).
- APA, author named in the sentence: Smith says (2015), “Quote” (p. #).
- APA, author NOT named in the sentence: “Quote” (Smith, 2015, p. 209).
- If we do not have an author, use the title of the article, with a shortened version of the title for subsequent references.

# COMMON ELEMENTS OF MLA CITATIONS

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- Books: Author(s). *Title*. City or cities of publication: Publisher, Year. Medium (print or web).
- Articles in magazines or journals: Author(s). “Title of the article.” *Title of the Publication* Volume/Issue (Year): Pages. Medium (print or web).
- Online journal articles: Author(s). “Title of the article.” *Title of the Website* Volume/Issue (if available) (Year): Pages. Medium (print or web). Date of access.
- Online articles in other online sites: Author(s). “Title of the article.” *Title of the Website*. Title of the website owner/host, Date of Publication. Medium (print or web). Date of Access.

# COMMON ELEMENTS OF APA CITATIONS

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- Books: Author(s) (Year). *Title*. City or cities of publication: Publisher.
- Articles in magazines or journals: Author(s) (Year, specific month/date if available). Title of the article. *Title of the Publication, Volume/Issue, Pages*.
- Online articles: Author(s) (Year, specific month/date if available). Title of the article. *Title of the Website, Volume/Issue (if available)*. Retrieved from URL.