

MLA vs. APA

Here are the major similarities and differences between MLA and APA citation styles. For more information, visit the University Writing Center. The hours are Monday – Thursday 9am-9pm and Friday 9am-1pm. You can make an appointment or drop by! Give us a call at 262-3144 or visit our website at www.writingcenter.appstate.edu.

| MLA | Similarities | APA |
|---|--|--|
| Typically used in the Humanities (i.e.: English, Theatre, Art) | The paper is double spaced, as well as the reference or works cited page. The citation has a hanging indent. | Typically used in the social sciences (i.e.: Psychology, Sociology, Social Work) |
| “works cited” page to cite sources at the end of the work | All information used in the paper <i>must</i> be in the reference page or works cited. | “references” page to cite sources at the end of the work |
| Works cited is cited last name, first name (Bird, Big) | Any information that is not your own needs to be cited | Works cited is last name, first initial (Bird, B.) |
| When information is cited and the author’s name is listed within the sentence, place the page number found at the end. {According to Big Bird, writing centers are awesome” (22). } | Both use parenthetical citations within the body of the paper. (Bird, 2010) or (Bird 22) | When information is cited and author’s name is listed within the sentence, place the year the material was published. {Big Bird (2010) believes that writing centers are awesome. } |
| When information is cited and the author’s name is <i>not</i> listed, place the author’s last name and the page number at the end. {Writing centers are awesome (Bird 22). } | Citations are listed alphabetically on the references or works cited page | When information is cited and the author’s name is <i>not</i> listed, place the author’s last name and the year the material was published. {Writing centers are awesome (Bird, 2010). } |
| Quotes 4 lines or longer are <i>blocked</i> , meaning indented 2 tabs over | Quotes are integrated smoothly and with transitions. (For a handout on transitions, visit the UWC!) | Quotes 40 words or more are indented one tab (or 5 spaces) |