

Citation Guide (MLA/APA/Chicago) PDF – Detailed Guide

Overview

This guide provides clear, side-by-side comparisons of **MLA (9th ed.)**, **APA (7th ed.)**, and **Chicago (17th ed., Notes-Bibliography style)** for book reviews. Includes templates for in-text citations, reference entries, and formatting tips.

Quick Style Choice Guide

- **MLA:** Literature, humanities, arts.
 - **APA:** Psychology, education, social sciences.
 - **Chicago:** History, some humanities, publishing.
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1. In-Text Citations

MLA (Author-Page)

- **Basic format:** (Author Page)
Example: (Fitzgerald 45)
- **Two authors:** (Smith and Jones 123)
- **No author:** Use shortened title (“Title” Page)
Example: (“Review Format” 2)
- **Multiple works by same author:** (Author, Shortened Title Page)
Example: (Morrison, *Beloved* 78)

APA (Author-Date-Page)

- **Basic format:** (Author, Year, p. Page)
Example: (Fitzgerald, 1925, p. 45)

- **Two authors:** (Smith & Jones, 2020, p. 123)
- **No author:** Use shortened title (“Title,” Year, p. Page)
Example: (“Formatting Guide,” 2025, p. 2)
- **Multiple works same author/year:** Add letters (2025a, 2025b)

Chicago (Footnote)

- **First mention:** ¹Author Full Name, *Book Title* (Place: Publisher, Year), Page.
Example: ¹F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby* (New York: Scribner, 1925), 45.
- **Subsequent mentions:** ²Author Last Name, *Shortened Title*, Page.
Example: ²Fitzgerald, *Gatsby*, 72.
- **Ibid.:** If same source consecutively: ³Ibid., Page.

2. Reference List / Bibliography Entries

MLA Works Cited

Book:

Author Last, First. *Book Title*. Publisher, Year.

Example:

Morrison, Toni. *Beloved*. Alfred A. Knopf, 1987.

Article in Journal:

Author Last, First. “Article Title.” *Journal*, vol. #, no. #, Year, pages.

Example:

Smith, Jane. “Trauma in *Beloved*.” *Literature Today*, vol. 12, no. 3, 2010, pp. 45–67.

APA References

Book:

Author Last, Initial. (Year). *Book title*. Publisher.

Example:

Morrison, T. (1987). *Beloved*. Alfred A. Knopf.

Article in Journal:

Author Last, Initial. (Year). Article title. *Journal*, volume(issue), pages.

Example:

Smith, J. (2010). Trauma in *Beloved*. *Literature Today*, *12*(3), 45–67.

Chicago Bibliography

Book:

Author Last, First. *Book Title*. Place: Publisher, Year.

Example:

Morrison, Toni. *Beloved*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1987.

Article:

Author Last, First. "Article Title." *Journal* volume, no. issue (Year): pages.

Example:

Smith, Jane. "Trauma in *Beloved*." *Literature Today* 12, no. 3 (2010): 45–67.

3. Citing the Book Being Reviewed

- **In-text:** Always cite page numbers for direct quotes.
 - **Reference list:** Include the reviewed book as primary source.
 - **Secondary sources:** If you cite other scholars, include them too.
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4. Formatting the References Page

- **Title:** “Works Cited” (MLA), “References” (APA), “Bibliography” (Chicago).
 - **Order:** Alphabetical by author last name.
 - **Hanging indent:** All lines after first indented 0.5 inches.
 - **Double-spaced:** Entire page.
 - **DOIs/URLs:** Include for online sources (APA/Chicago).
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5. Common Pitfalls & Fixes

- ✗ Missing page numbers in in-text citations → ✓ Always include for quotes.
 - ✗ Incorrect author order → ✓ MLA: Full names; APA: Initials.
 - ✗ Italics vs. quotes → ✓ Books italicized, articles in quotes.
 - ✗ Forgetting hanging indent → ✓ Format paragraph settings.
 - ✗ Mixing styles → ✓ Stick to one style consistently.
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6. Sample Citation Blocks

MLA Block:

Works Cited

Fitzgerald, F. Scott. **The Great Gatsby**. Scribner, 1925.

Smith, Jane. "Reading Gatsby Today." **Journal of American Studies**,
vol. 50, no. 2, 2016, pp. 123–45.

APA Block:

References

Fitzgerald, F. S. (1925). **The great Gatsby**. Scribner.

Smith, J. (2016). Reading Gatsby today. *Journal of American Studies*,
50(2), 123–145. <https://doi.org/xxxxx>

Chicago Block:

Bibliography

Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *The Great Gatsby*. New York: Scribner, 1925.

Smith, Jane. "Reading Gatsby Today." *Journal of American Studies*
50, no. 2 (2016): 123–45.

