

APA VS MLA COMPARISON CHART

Element	APA (7th Edition)	MLA (9th Edition)
Primary Use	Social sciences, psychology, education	Humanities, literature, arts
In-Text Citation	(Author, Year, p. Page)	(Author Page)
Example Citation	(Smith, 2023, p. 45)	(Smith 45)
Title Page	Required	Not required
Page Header	Page number only (top right)	Last name + page number (top right)
Source List Title	References	Works Cited
Author Names	Last, F. I.	Last, First Name.
Publication Date	(Year). After author	Year. At end
Multiple Authors	Use "&"	Use "and"
3+ Authors	Smith et al.	Smith et al.
Article Titles	Sentence case	Title Case
Journal/Book Titles	Italicized, sentence case	Italicized, Title Case
Page Numbers Quote	(Smith, 2023, p. 45)	(Smith 45)
Page Abbreviation	Use "p." or "pp."	No prefix
Block Quote Length	40+ words	4+ lines or 3+ poetry lines
Block Quote Indent	0.5 inches	1 inch
Hanging Indent	0.5 inches	0.5 inches
Line Spacing	Double-spaced	Double-spaced
Font	12pt Times New Roman	12pt Times New Roman
Margins	1 inch all sides	1 inch all sides

QUICK DECISION GUIDE

- Use APA if:** ☐ Writing for psychology, sociology, education, nursing, business ☐ Emphasizing research dates and currency ☐ Following social science conventions

Use MLA if: ☐ Writing for English, literature, languages, history, arts ☐ Analyzing texts with precise page references ☐ Following humanities conventions

KEY DIFFERENCES SUMMARY

- Date Placement:** - APA: Immediately after author (emphasizes currency) - MLA: At end of citation (de-emphasizes date)

Author Format: - APA: Initials only (reduces bias) - MLA: Full first names (honors authorship)

Title Capitalization: - APA: Sentence case (only first word) - MLA: Title Case (all major words)

Citation Focus: - APA: Author + Year (when research was done) - MLA: Author + Page (where to find information)