

Side-by-Side Citation Examples

How to Use This Guide

Compare the same source cited in different styles to see key formatting differences.

Note: All examples use the same fictional source information for easy comparison.

Example 1: Single Author Book

Source Information

- **Author:** John Michael Smith
- **Title:** The Digital Revolution: How Technology Changed Society
- **Publisher:** Academic Press
- **Year:** 2023
- **Page cited:** 45

In-Text Citations

APA:

Smith (2023) argues that technology transformed society. Technology has transformed society (Smith, 2023, p. 45).

MLA:

Smith argues that technology transformed society (45). Technology has transformed society (Smith 45).

Chicago (NB):

Smith argues that technology transformed society.¹

¹ John Michael Smith, *The Digital Revolution: How Technology Changed Society* (New York: Academic Press, 2023), 45.

Chicago (AD):

Smith (2023) argues that technology transformed society. Technology has transformed society (Smith 2023, 45).

Full Citations

APA (References):

Smith, J. M. (2023). *The digital revolution: How technology changed society*. Academic Press.

MLA (Works Cited):

Smith, John Michael. *The Digital Revolution: How Technology Changed Society*. Academic Press, 2023.

Chicago (Bibliography):

Smith, John Michael. *The Digital Revolution: How Technology Changed Society*. New York: Academic Press, 2023.

Example 2: Two Authors Journal Article

Source Information

- **Authors:** Mary Ann Johnson and David Lee Brown
- **Article:** The Impact of Technology on Modern Education
- **Journal:** Journal of Educational Research
- **Volume:** 45
- **Issue:** 3
- **Year:** 2024
- **Pages:** 123-145
- **DOI:** 10.1234/jer.2024.0056

In-Text Citations

APA:

Johnson and Brown (2024) found significant improvements. Recent research shows improvements (Johnson & Brown, 2024, p. 130).

MLA:

Johnson and Brown found significant improvements (130). Recent research shows improvements (Johnson and Brown 130).

Chicago (NB):

Johnson and Brown found significant improvements.²
² Mary Ann Johnson and David Lee Brown, "The Impact of Technology on Modern Education," *Journal of Educational Research* 45, no. 3 (2024): 130.

Chicago (AD):

Johnson and Brown (2024) found significant improvements. Recent research shows improvements (Johnson and Brown 2024, 130).

Full Citations

APA (References):

Johnson, M. A., & Brown, D. L. (2024). The impact of technology on modern education. *Journal of Educational Research*, 45(3), 123-145. <https://doi.org/10.1234/jer.2024.0056>

MLA (Works Cited):

Johnson, Mary Ann, and David Lee Brown. "The Impact of Technology on Modern Education." *Journal of Educational Research*, vol. 45, no. 3, 2024, pp. 123-145, doi:10.1234/jer.2024.0056.

Chicago (Bibliography):

Johnson, Mary Ann, and David Lee Brown. "The Impact of Technology on Modern Education." *Journal of Educational Research* 45, no. 3 (2024): 123-145. <https://doi.org/10.1234/jer.2024.0056>.

Example 3: Website Article

Source Information

- **Author:** Sarah Elizabeth Williams
- **Article:** Understanding Artificial Intelligence in Education
- **Website:** Education Technology Blog
- **Date:** May 15, 2024
- **URL:** www.edtechblog.com/ai-education

In-Text Citations

APA:

Williams (2024) explains AI applications in education.
AI has many educational applications (Williams, 2024).

MLA:

Williams explains AI applications in education.
AI has many educational applications (Williams).

Chicago (NB):

Williams explains AI applications in education.³
³ Sarah Elizabeth Williams, “Understanding Artificial Intelligence in Education,” *Education Technology Blog*, May 15, 2024, www.edtechblog.com/ai-education.

Chicago (AD):

Williams (2024) explains AI applications in education.
AI has many educational applications (Williams 2024).

Full Citations**APA (References):**

Williams, S. E. (2024, May 15). Understanding artificial intelligence in education. *Education Technology Blog*. <https://www.edtechblog.com/ai-education>

MLA (Works Cited):

Williams, Sarah Elizabeth. “Understanding Artificial Intelligence in Education.” *Education Technology Blog*, 15 May 2024, www.edtechblog.com/ai-education.

Chicago (Bibliography):

Williams, Sarah Elizabeth. “Understanding Artificial Intelligence in Education.” *Education Technology Blog*. May 15, 2024. www.edtechblog.com/ai-education.

Example 4: Chapter in Edited Book**Source Information**

- **Chapter Author:** Robert Thomas Martinez
- **Chapter Title:** Learning Theories in Practice
- **Book Title:** Modern Educational Psychology
- **Editors:** Emily Chen and Michael Davis
- **Publisher:** University Press
- **Year:** 2023
- **Pages:** 78-102

In-Text Citations**APA:**

Martinez (2023) discusses learning theories.
Multiple theories exist (Martinez, 2023, p. 85).

MLA:

Martinez discusses learning theories (85).
Multiple theories exist (Martinez 85).

Chicago (NB):

Martinez discusses learning theories.
Robert Thomas Martinez, “Learning Theories in Practice,” in *Modern Educational Psychology*, ed. Emily Chen and Michael Davis (Chicago: University Press, 2023), 85.

Chicago (AD):

Martinez (2023) discusses learning theories.

Multiple theories exist (Martinez 2023, 85).

Full Citations

APA (References):

Martinez, R. T. (2023). Learning theories in practice. In E. Chen & M. Davis (Eds.), *Modern educational psychology* (pp. 78-102). University Press.

MLA (Works Cited):

Martinez, Robert Thomas. "Learning Theories in Practice." *Modern Educational Psychology*, edited by Emily Chen and Michael Davis, University Press, 2023, pp. 78-102.

Chicago (Bibliography):

Martinez, Robert Thomas. "Learning Theories in Practice." In *Modern Educational Psychology*, edited by Emily Chen and Michael Davis, 78-102. Chicago: University Press, 2023.

Example 5: Three or More Authors

Source Information

- **Authors:** Jennifer Lee, Carlos Garcia, and Amanda Thompson
- **Article:** Collaborative Learning in Digital Environments
- **Journal:** Educational Technology Review
- **Volume:** 28
- **Issue:** 2
- **Year:** 2024
- **Pages:** 45-67

In-Text Citations

APA:

Lee et al. (2024) examined collaborative learning. Collaborative learning is effective (Lee et al., 2024).

MLA:

Lee et al. examined collaborative learning (52). Collaborative learning is effective (Lee et al. 52).

Chicago (NB):

Lee et al. examined collaborative learning. Jennifer Lee, Carlos Garcia, and Amanda Thompson, "Collaborative Learning in Digital Environments," *Educational Technology Review* 28, no. 2 (2024): 52.

Chicago (AD):

Lee, Garcia, and Thompson (2024) examined collaborative learning. Collaborative learning is effective (Lee, Garcia, and Thompson 2024, 52).

Full Citations

APA (References):

Lee, J., Garcia, C., & Thompson, A. (2024). Collaborative learning in digital environments. *Educational Technology Review*, 28(2), 45-67.

MLA (Works Cited):

Lee, Jennifer, et al. "Collaborative Learning in Digital Environments." *Educational Technology Review*, vol. 28, no. 2, 2024, pp. 45-67.

Chicago (Bibliography):

Lee, Jennifer, Carlos Garcia, and Amanda Thompson. "Collaborative Learning in Digital Environments." *Educational Technology Review* 28, no. 2 (2024): 45-67.

Example 6: No Author (Website)

Source Information

- **Article:** The Future of Online Education
- **Website:** National Education Association
- **Date:** March 10, 2024
- **URL:** www.nea.org/future-online-education

In-Text Citations

APA:

Online education continues to evolve ("Future," 2024).

MLA:

Online education continues to evolve ("Future").

Chicago (NB):

Online education continues to evolve.¶

¶ "The Future of Online Education," *National Education Association*, March 10, 2024, www.nea.org/future-online-education.

Chicago (AD):

Online education continues to evolve ("Future of Online Education" 2024).

Full Citations

APA (References):

The future of online education. (2024, March 10). *National Education Association*. <https://www.nea.org/future-online-education>

MLA (Works Cited):

"The Future of Online Education." *National Education Association*, 10 Mar. 2024, www.nea.org/future-online-education.

Chicago (Bibliography):

"The Future of Online Education." *National Education Association*. March 10, 2024. www.nea.org/future-online-education.

Key Differences Summary

Author Names

Style	Format	Example
APA	Last, F. M.	Smith, J. M.
MLA	Last, First Middle	Smith, John Michael
Chicago	Last, First Middle	Smith, John Michael

Date Placement

Style	Placement	Example
APA	After author (parentheses)	Smith, J. M. (2023).
MLA	End of citation	Publisher, 2023.
Chicago	End of citation	Press, 2023.

Multiple Authors

Style	In-Text	Full Citation
APA	(Smith & Jones, 2023)	Smith, J., & Jones, M.
MLA	(Smith and Jones 45)	Smith, John, and Mary Jones
Chicago NB	Footnote	Smith, John, and Mary Jones
Chicago AD	(Smith and Jones 2023)	Smith, John, and Mary Jones

Title Capitalization

Style	Books/Articles	Example
APA	Sentence case	The digital revolution
MLA	Title Case	The Digital Revolution
Chicago	Title Case	The Digital Revolution

In-Text Citation Focus

Style	Focus	Format
APA	Author + Year	(Smith, 2023)
MLA	Author + Page	(Smith 45)
Chicago NB	Footnote number	Superscript ¹
Chicago AD	Author + Year	(Smith 2023)

Quick Comparison Chart

Same Book - All Four Styles

Source: John Smith, *Digital Learning*, Academic Press, 2023, page 45

Element	APA	MLA	Chicago NB	Chicago AD
In-text	(Smith, 2023, p. 45)	(Smith 45)	¹	(Smith 2023, 45)
Author	Smith, J.	Smith, John.	Smith, John.	Smith, John.
Date	(2023).	2023.	2023.	2023.
Title	<i>Digital learning.</i>	<i>Digital Learning.</i>	<i>Digital Learning.</i>	<i>Digital Learning.</i>
Publisher	Academic Press.	Academic Press,	Academic Press, 2023.	Academic Press.

Bonus: IEEE Format Example

Book

IEEE (References):

[1] J. M. Smith, *The Digital Revolution: How Technology Changed Society*. New York: Academic Press, 2023.

IEEE (In-text):

Smith [1] argues that technology transformed society.
Technology has transformed society [1].

Journal Article**IEEE (References):**

[2] M. A. Johnson and D. L. Brown, "The impact of technology on modern education," *J. Educ. Res.*, vol. 45, no. 3, pp. 123-145, 2024.

IEEE (In-text):

Johnson and Brown [2] found significant improvements.

Practice Exercise**Try It Yourself**

Given this source information: - Author: Emma Louise Rodriguez - Title: Climate Change and Coastal Communities - Journal: Environmental Studies Quarterly - Volume: 52, Issue: 4 - Year: 2023 - Pages: 201-225 - Page cited: 210

Format this source in: 1. APA (in-text and reference) 2. MLA (in-text and Works Cited)
3. Chicago NB (footnote and bibliography)

Remember

Consistency is key: - Choose ONE style for your entire paper - Follow that style's guidelines completely - Never mix citation styles

When comparing styles: - Notice pattern differences (dates, names, capitalization) - Understand WHY each style formats differently - Practice converting between styles for understanding

Always verify: - Check your instructor's requirements - Consult official style manuals for complex sources - Use these examples as guides, not gospel

For complete citation rules: - **APA:** Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.) - **MLA:** MLA Handbook (9th ed.) - **Chicago:** The Chicago Manual of Style (17th ed.) - **IEEE:** IEEE Reference Guide