

# APA and MLA Format

*APA and MLA are both commonly used styles for organizing essays - but how are they different? This tip will help you identify the major features of both formats and show you how to adjust your essay to earn a perfect score for organization.*

## General Guidelines for Both Formats

- ◇ Use Times New Roman font, and 12-point font size.
- ◇ Double space your essay, including the heading and works cited page.
- ◇ Make sure the page has 1-inch margins.
- ◇ Indent each paragraph, and use a hanging indent for citations.

### Content

- **APA** stands for American Psychological Association. True to its name, APA is usually used for papers in social science subjects, like psychology, sociology, or economics. Sometimes APA is used in liberal arts subjects, like English, with some changes to the standard style.
- **MLA** stands for Modern Language Association. Just as APA is used in scientific subjects, MLA is used for liberal arts subjects, such as English.

### First Page and Heading

- **APA** essays list the title of the essay and page number at the top left of each page. On the first page, this should read “Running head: TITLE” and for every page after, simple “TITLE”. You should include a full cover page. In the middle of the page, centered, write the title of the essay, your name, and the college you attend on three separate lines.
- **MLA** essays use the your last name and the page number as a heading at the top right of each page. For example, if your last name were Alvarez, the heading of the first page would read “Alvarez 1” without quotation marks. The header consists of four lines aligned on the left— your name, your professor’s name, the class you are in, and the date. On the next line, center your title, and then immediately begin the introduction on the line after.

### Citations

- **APA** citations are listed at the end of your paper under the heading “References” without quotations. Each citation must be in APA format— consult an online resource to do this, or, if using the library database to cite your resources, make sure to select the APA-formatted option. In-text citations should include the following information, unless stated within the sentence: (Author’s last name, year, page number if applicable).
- **MLA** citations are listed at the end of your paper under the heading “Works Cited” without quotations. Again, individual citations must be in MLA format specifically. In-text citations should include the following information at the end of the sentence, before the period: (Author’s last name page number). Note the lack of comas.

*For specific citation format see: <http://lib.gccaz.edu/lmc/help/citations/>*

# Examples

## What should the finished product look like?

Let's say that the topic of your essay is global warming, and you need to cite an article from a newspaper for your works cited page. The table below shows the general format for an article in each style, and how the same article would look cited in MLA versus APA.

### Citations

	General Format	Formatted Example Article
<b>APA</b>	Author's last name, author's first initial. (Year, Month Day). Article title. <i>Title of newspaper</i> . Retrieved from: full URL	Schwartz, J. (2015, November 5). Scientists study links between climate change and extreme weather. <i>The New York Times</i> . Retrieved from: <a href="http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/06/science/climate-change-extreme-weather-global-warming.htm">http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/06/science/climate-change-extreme-weather-global-warming.htm</a>
<b>MLA</b>	Author's last name, author's full first name. "Title of article." <i>Title of website</i> . Name of publishing company, date published. Medium of publication. Date accessed.	Schwartz, John. "Scientists Study Links Between Climate Change and Extreme Weather." <i>NYTimes</i> . The New York Times Company, 5 Nov. 2015. Web. 16 Mar. 2016.

**Keep in mind that citation formats are different depending on what type of source you use.** If the information from global warming came from a book, you would need to use a slightly different format than what is listed above, for both APA and MLA. Consult a guide like the Purdue Owl website to do this.

### First Page and Headings:

Below are examples of what the first page of your essay should look like in both formats. Note the running head in APA, and remember that the words "Running head:" are only used on the first page. The images below are only intended to be visual aids -- refer the front side for specific directions about headings in your essay.

