

COMPARISON CHART: MLA TO APA

FIRST PAGE:

MLA	APA
In the upper left-hand corner of the first page, list double-spaced the author, the instructor, the course number and the date (spelling the month and using the “day month year” format)	Title (approximately 4 lines down from top of page, centered, and bolded; add an extra double space between Title line and Author line), followed by the author’s name (no titles or degrees), affiliation (department name and university name, separated by a comma), the course code and name, the instructor’s name and the due date (written in month, day, year format) on separate lines.
MLA does not require a title page, but APA does	

HEADER:

One-half inch from the top and flush with the right margin include the last name of the author, followed by a space and a page number. Repeat with consecutive numbering on all pages	No running head is required, unless your professor requests it. Page numbers should be placed in the upper right corner, with the cover page as page number 1.
MLA lists the author’s last name before the page number, but APA does not	

SECTIONS HEADINGS:

Section headings receive sequential numbers with a period followed by a space and section names that resemble one another	Section headings receive level one format (centered, boldface, uppercase and lowercase). Subsections receive level two format (same as level one except left-aligned). Level three headings are flush left, bold italics, title case. Level four headings are indented, bold, title case, ending with a period and the text begins on same line as heading and continues as a regular paragraph. Level five heading are indented, bold Italics, title case ending with a period and the texts begins on the same line and continues as a regular paragraph.
MLA does not state a specific system for the use of headings, but APA does	

IN-TEXT CITATIONS:

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MLA	APA
The author's last name, or an abbreviated source title, with a page number, not separated by any symbols or punctuation, and in parentheses. For a source with two authors, include both last names (connected by "and"). For a source with three or more authors, include all last names in the text and only the first author's last name and "et al." in the parenthetical citation. Place parenthetical citations with page numbers immediately after quotations	The author's last name, or an abbreviated source title, and the year of publication, separated by a comma and enclosed in parentheses. For direct quotations provide the author's name, the date of publication, and a page number, separated by commas. Use "p." or "pp." to indicate the page or pages where a direct quotations is located. Place parenthetical citations with the year of publication immediately after authors' names
MLA does not require a comma, the date or a p. before page numbers, but APA does	

TENSE:

Use present tense to discuss literary works, the actions of characters and the developments of plots. If primarily discussing the historical context of a work, the past tense may also be used	Use the past tense (-ed) or present perfect ("have" or "has") to introduce quotations and sources. Use present tense only to discuss applications or effects of a writer's own results
MLA primarily uses present tense with some past, but APA primarily uses past tense with some present	

BIBLIOGRAPHIES:

At the end of the text center the title "Works Cited" at the top of a new page	At the end of the text center the title "References" at the top of a new page and bold it
MLA uses a Works Cited page, but APA uses a References page	

AUTHORS' NAMES:

Invert author's names (last name first; followed by first and middle names). Multiple authors are ordered as they are presented. The first author is written in last name, first name format; subsequent authors appear in first name, last name format. Three or more authors begin with the first author's name followed by et al.	Invert authors' names (last name first; followed by initials) and list the date of publication in parentheses, followed by a period. For two to twenty authors, use an ampersand (&) before the last author's name. For twenty-one or more authors, give the first nineteen, an ellipses, and the last
MLA uses inverted full names, but APA uses inverted last names with first and middle initials	

TITLES AND CONTAINERS:

Small works, such as chapters in books or episodes of TV shows, carry double-quotation marks. Larger containers, such as books, albums, and visual artworks, are italicized. Volume and issue numbers should follow journal titles, if available, and be separated by periods	For books, chapters, articles or essays, capitalize only the first letter of the title, subtitle and all proper nouns. Italicize books and other large works. Use standard Title Case capitalization and italics for periodicals. Italicize the volume and put the issue number in parentheses
MLA uses double-quotation marks and standard capitalization, but APA does not	