

APA and MLA Format

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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.
- 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
 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.
- 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

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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
APA	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: http:// www.nyt imes.com/2015/11/06/science/climate- change-extreme-weather-global-warming.htm
MLA	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 publica- tion. 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.

Running head: LEVI-STRAUSS AND THE RISE OF MYTHIC STRUCTURALISM	1
Levi-Strauss and the Rise of Mythic Structuralism	
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	Claude Levi-Strauss and the Rise of Mythic Structuralism
	Among social scientists of the 20th century, few were more prominent or influential than
Fr	ench anthropologist and ethnographist Claude Levi-Strauss. Born on November 28, 1908, to a
Je	wish family with German roots, Levi-Strauss was raised primarily in Paris, where he later
att	ended the prestigious University of Paris and earned a Ph.D. in philosophy. A three-year
te	ching sabbatical in Brazil sparked a lifelong passion for studying the similarities and
di	ferences of world cultures, a topic which he wrote and published on extensively over the
00	urse of his long career. When he died in 2009, at age 100, Levi-Strauss held a preeminent
po	sition in the field of anthropology for his research on a vast array of topics and theories, but
no	table among them is his advocacy for the structuralist school of thought. With structuralism,
L	vi-Strauss sought to reconcile his anthropological research with a desire for scientific
un	iversality, and in the realm of cultural experiences, there are few more universal than myth.
	In his 1955 article "The Structural Study of Myth," Levi-Strauss posited that "purpose of
th	myth is to provide a logical model capable of overcoming a contradiction." (443)
L	vi-Strauss believed that all human creations, even the wildly fanciful and seemingly chaotic
do	main of mythology, arise from and are governed by underlying patterns of rational thought.
R	ger A. Salerno, author of the book Beyond the Enlightenment: Lives and Thoughts of Social
Th	eorists, notes that Levi-Strauss made it his mission to "find the cognitive structures deeply

