

APA Style

So far we have practiced using **MLA (Modern Language Association)** citation style. We now turn to **APA (American Psychological Association)** citation style.

MLA style is most commonly used in the humanities; APA style is most commonly used in the sciences. When you take classes in the humanities such as English, you will use MLA style. When you take science classes such as Sociology, you will use APA style.

APA Style

APA style is used the sciences because it prioritizes the date of publication. (Work in the sciences is very time sensitive; old scientific studies are often not as relevant as newer ones.)

Thus, APA parenthetical citations look like this:

One study showed that students who read “at least 30 minutes a day make 85% fewer errors than students who don’t” (Smith, 2004, p. 103).

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Here is the same citation from the previous page:

One study showed that students who read “at least 30 minutes a day make 85% fewer errors than students who don’t” (Smith, 2004, p. 103).

Note the two differences between MLA and APA parenthetical citations: in APA citations, the year follows the author’s name; and there is a “p.” before the page number. The MLA citation for this source would simply be **(Smith 103)**.

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That is not the only difference:

Smith's (2004) study showed that students who read "at least 30 minutes a day make 85% fewer errors than students who don't" (p. 103).

In APA style, if the author's name is mentioned in the body of the paragraph, you write **two** citations: the year of the cited work's publication immediately after the author's name; and the page number at the end of the sentence.

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Exercise 7: Using APA style, practice writing a parenthetical citation for each of the following quotes from page 107 of Smith’s article published in the year 2004.

Statistical research also revealed that students who take notes during class are “ten times more likely to receive As or Bs than students who don’t.”

Smith’s research shows a “positive correlation between student engagement in the classroom and performance on graded assignments.”

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Exercise 7: Do your practice APA parenthetical citations look like this? Remember, when using APA style, you write the author's name, year of publication, and "p." before the page number in the parenthetical citation.

Statistical research also revealed that students who take notes during class are "ten times more likely to receive As or Bs than students who don't" (Smith, 2004, p. 107).

Smith's (2004) research shows a "positive correlation between student engagement in the classroom and performance on graded assignments" (p. 107).

Here are some examples of how APA style differs from MLA style:

APA Parenthetical Citations:

Statistical research also revealed that students who take notes during class are “ten times more likely to receive As or Bs than students who don’t” (Smith, 2004, p. 107).

Smith’s (2004) research shows a “positive correlation between student engagement in the classroom and performance on graded assignments” (p. 107).

Here are the same quotes with MLA Parenthetical Citations:

Statistical research also revealed that students who take notes during class are “ten times more likely to receive As or Bs than students who don’t” (Smith 107).

Smith’s research shows a “positive correlation between student engagement in the classroom and performance on graded assignments” (107).*

* Because MLA style does not use years, if you are citing two works by the same author in MLA style then you put the work’s title in the citation, like this (Smith, *Science of Success*, 107)

APA Style vs. MLA Style

There are a surprising number of variations for APA and MLA parenthetical citations depending on the kind of text being cited.

For more information on how to cite all kinds of different sources in **APA style**, go here:

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

For more information on how to cite all kinds of different sources in **MLA style**, go here:

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02/>