

MLA vs. APA: Side-by-Side Citation Guide

In-Text Citation Comparison

	MLA	APA
Format	Author + page # (no comma)	Author + year (comma)
Example	(Smith 23)	(Smith, 2020)
With Quote	(Smith 23)	(Smith, 2020, p. 23)

Explanation: MLA focuses on page numbers because it is commonly used in the humanities, where specific passages matter. APA emphasizes the publication year because it is used in the social sciences, where the timeliness of research is important.

Bibliography / Works Cited / References

Book

MLA: Smith, John. *The Study of Writing*. Academic Press, 2020.

APA: Smith, J. (2020). *The study of writing*. Academic Press.

Journal Article (Print)

MLA: Smith, John. "Writing Skills." *Journal of Education*, vol. 5, no. 2, 2020, pp. 45-60.

APA: Smith, J. (2020). Writing skills. *Journal of Education*, 5(2), 45–60.

Online Scholarly Journal

MLA: Smith, John. "Digital Writing." *Online Journal of Literacy*, vol. 10, no. 1, 2021, pp. 10-20. Web.

APA: Smith, J. (2021). Digital writing. *Online Journal of Literacy*, 10(1), 10–20. <https://doi.org/xxxxx>

Website

MLA: Smith, John. "Writing Tips." *Writing Center Online*, 2022, www.writingcenter.com.

APA: Smith, J. (2022). Writing tips. *Writing Center Online*. <https://www.writingcenter.com>

Ebook

MLA: Smith, John. *The Study of Writing*. Academic Press, 2020. Google Books, <https://books.google.com/>

APA: Smith, J. (2020). *The study of writing*. Academic Press. <https://books.google.com/>