

The Learning Center

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MLA and APA Style Changes

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Both MLA and APA have issued recent updates to their documentation styles that reflect a greater accommodation of electronic sources and word processing conventions. The MLA changes are documented in the seventh edition of the *MLA Handbook*, while the APA modified recent changes issued in the 2007 electronic sources supplement in the newly released sixth edition of their *Publication Manual*. It will take some time for all the guidebooks and online aids to catch up to these changes (for instance, the *Penguin Handbook* included MLA updates, but was distributed just before the APA manual appeared this summer) – hence, this summary of the salient points.

MLA

1. Use *italics* instead of underlining for titles, words, etc.
2. Give every entry a *medium of publication* designation, such as the following: Print, Web, Film, DVD, Performance, Lecture, etc.
3. Provide *volume* and *issue number* for all journals (instead of continuous pagination).
4. Adapt *online source documentation* to the following guidelines:
 - a. Provide a publisher/sponsor for each entry (N.p. if none available).
 - b. Give page numbers of articles in online journals/databases (N.pag. id none available).
 - c. Give date of publication (n.d. if none available).
 - d. Do not list the URL or location of the database (such as library name).

Example of entry:

Begiebing, Robert J. "Norman Mailer's *Why are We in Vietnam?*: The Ritual of Regeneration." *American Imago* 37 (Spring 1980): 12. *Academic Search Premier*. Web. 24 Aug. 2009.

APA

1. Use the DOI (Digital Object Identifier) for print and online journals. If DOI is not available, use the home page URL for the journal.
2. Do not list a retrieval date for online sources.
3. Do not include database information.
4. When authors number eight or more, include the first six authors' names, then insert an ellipsis and add the last author's name.

Example of entry:

Pepin, E., & Banyard, V. (2006, August). Social support: A mediator between child maltreatment and developmental outcomes. *Journal of Youth & Adolescence*, 35(4), 612-625.doi:10.1007/s10964-006-9063-4