

THE THREE STYLES OF WRITING: APA, MLA AND TURABIAN

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Success for Life and Ministry

Instructor, Dr. Glenise Harris Wilson

Regina Gallon

Beulah Heights University

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### **ABSTRACT**

Academic Writing is broken down in segments of its style, rules, audience and citation. In this documentation you will be informed on THE THREE STYLES OF WRITING: APA, MLA AND TURABIAN, the dates of their creation, each writing style or technique, the preference of writing style by professional organization or scholarly fields, and the choice of citation format. Research was gathered through online readings of Blogs and Manuals explaining details between the various styles that resulted in a great understanding of its use, Academic Honesty, as well as the effects of Plagiarism.

Keywords: APA, MLA, Turabian, Citations, Bibliography, References, Plagiarism

### **The Three Styles of Writing: APA, MLA, and Turabian**

Academic writing is created in many different forms, and styles and is normally given in an impersonal and dispassionate tone and targeted to a specific audience to inform, entertain, explain, persuade, or describe in topic. Each writing approach is formatted with rules in presentation, literary etiquette, style, language and values. While there are various formats of writing, one commonality in academic writing is the dedicated objective to present information that is supportive, organized, clear and understandable in its topics to its audience.

As further discussed below, Academic writing can be written in several formats but the most widely used are APA (American Psychological Association), MLA (Modern Language Association) and Turabian Old Chicago Style. Another shared rule in Academic writing is the intent for citation at the end of the total body of work with purpose to credit the writers for the profession and mental body of literary work when used to support another writer in their research and writings; however, the difference in these writing styles is how they cite their sources.

### **METHOD**

APA (American Psychological Association) originating in 1929 is a writing style primarily known for its simple reference citation style and is also established for its language that is impactful across a broad audience. This writing style is widely seen in scholarly journal articles, books, textbooks and pamphlets and its common use is when citing sources in the field of Medicine, Education, as well as Social and Behavior Sciences. APA guidelines have been continuously updated to improve and help with writing without bias where race, age, gender, sexual orientation and disabilities are concerned. APA style cites a list of references at the end of written work. (*The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 2010.*)

## THE THREE STYLES OF WRITING: APA, MLA AND TURABIAN

MLA (Modern Language Association), established in 1883 is a style of documentation that can be applied to many different types of writing. It is most commonly used to write papers and cite sources within the liberal arts and humanities. The rules of MLA are flexible, for example, due to the same texts or documents on the internet being used by multiple sources. Instead of relying on rigid rules, MLA writing is based on general methodology with a style that references a Bibliography page at the end of the written work.

Turabian or Old Chicago Style was first published by the Chicago University Press in 1906. Old Chicago Style is used by Business, History and Fine Arts. This style is preferred by many in humanities such as history, arts and creative writings. Its characteristic of writing is based on rules of grammar and punctuation in American English and presents two points of citation: Notes and Bibliography and Author-Date. (*University of Pittsburg, Course and Subject Guides: APA, MLA, Chicago, Turabian, IEEE, University of Pittsburg, Course and Subject Guides, 2010-2011*)

### **Result**

In the field of Academic Writing a good documentation is a great educator; however, its efforts do not come without a fault and the choice of plagiarism. Plagiarism, also known as Academic Dishonesty is the copying of any or all parts of a writer's intellectual property without crediting the originator of the works through citation. Academic Honesty is the number one honor code is literary work. Getting exposed for breaking the honor code could lead to serious events such as loss of job and credibility, and in some instances, being sued in a court of law.

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