

Three Styles of Writing

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When writing research papers, students must document every source of information which they use in their research papers. Sources can come from books, magazines, on-line articles, presentations, and any kind of scientific project. Documenting the sources not only gives credit to the author of the original work, but it also allows the reader to verify the sources that were used. Additionally, properly documenting sources avoids plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic conduct. Documenting sources is also known as citing. When citing work, the original text is normally used word-for-word and includes a reference to the original writer of the source document. This essay will discuss three styles of citing styles: Turabian, APA, and MLA.

One style for citing sources is called Turabian. This style is based on the Chicago style and is named after Kate Turabian, from the University of Chicago. Turabian style is used mainly for history papers, but it is sometimes used in other disciplines such as humanities, social and natural sciences classes. Turabian style citing includes two citation methods. One includes a traditional method of footnotes with a bibliography. The other method includes parenthetical references with a reference list at the end of the paper. At BHU, I've seen the parenthetical reference method used most often.

Another citing style is the APA (American Psychological Association) writing format. This style is widely used for writing research papers on science, psychology and other related classes. APA style provides clarity to papers, especially on complex topics, helping to make a research paper easier to read and understand. When using this citation format, the overall writing style needs to be aligned with the APA style. A paper should not have mixed styles because the consistency to writing an entire paper in APA format helps the writer organize their thoughts and research. The consistency of this style also gives the paper a better flow and helps to keep the focus on the content of the paper. Additionally, the bibliography page should contain all necessary information about the original source. Most of my classes at BHU have required APA format.

One other citing source style is MLA (Modern Language Association). MLA style is commonly used when writing papers in liberal arts, such as English classes. With the MLA format, parenthetical or in-text documentation, is used to briefly identify the sources of information a writer has cited in writing their paper. Parenthetical documentation is integrated into the text of the paper, rather than listed separately. This writing format has commonalities with APA, but one difference is in the pagination process. When using MLA, the author's last name, and not the research paper title, needs to be written beside the page number. There is also a difference in the bibliography page, where entries are not directly the same with those of APA.

A research paper topic usually determines the writing style and citing style that will be used in it. As it was mentioned above, science-related research papers are likely to be written in APA style, while social and nonscience will be carried out mostly in MLA or Turabian style. A research paper writing style largely contributes to the academic value of your work. Not only is content important, but the format and consistent use of the format add additional value to the paper. The more correct your work is, the better grade achieved. At BHU, professors usually request papers to be written in Turabian or APA style.