# Referencing styles

* **APA** stands for "American Psychological Association" and comes from the association of the same name. Although originally drawn up for use in psychological journals, the APA style is now widely used in the social sciences, in education, in business, and numerous other disciplines.
* **MLA** comes from the "Modern Language Association of America" and is used mainly in English and the Humanities.
* **Chicago** is sometimes referred to as Turabian or Chicago/Turabian. It comes from the "Chicago Manual of Style" and the simplified version of it, "A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations", that Kate Turabian wrote [Source: [The Writing Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill](http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/chicago.html%22%20%5Co%20%22opens%20a%20new%20window%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)]. Chicago is used mainly in the social sciences, including history, political studies, and theology.

**APA**

APA is an author/date referencing system common in the social sciences; it uses parenthetical in-text citations to refer readers to the list of references at the end of the paper. Numbered notes or footnotes are reserved for extra explanatory information that would disrupt the continuity of the text. The date of the research is important in scientific disciplines, since it conveys how recent or indeed historical the material is, thus the author/'s last name and the year of publication appear within the text. Page numbers are used in the text only in the case of direct quotations, not for paraphrased material.

*Example*

Pinker (1999) notes that memory loss, including memory for words, is an obvious and early symptom of Alzheimer's disease.

The alphabetical Reference List at the end of the paper provides the necessary information for readers to locate and retrieve any source cited in the body of the text. It lists alphabetically in this order: the last name of the author followed by the initials and the year of publication in brackets. In the case of a book with one author, the title of the book comes next, in italics, with just the initial letter of the first words of the title and subtitle capitalised. This is followed by the place of publication, and the name of the publisher. The information in the List of References must be detailed enough to enable the reader to easily locate the edition or volume or issue number, in the case of journals, or web page etc.

*Example*

Pinker, S. (1999). *Words and rules: The ingredients of language*. London: Phoenix.

**MLA**

The MLA system, common in the arts and humanities, is similar to APA in that it uses parenthetical in-text citations keyed to a List of Works cited at the end of the paper. The author's last name appears in the text close to the borrowed material along with a page number rather than the year. Literature and language rely more on exactly where in the text the quoted material can be found, either directly quoted or paraphrased, rather than the year - after all Hamlet would be 404 if he were alive today! Numbered notes or footnotes are only for extra information that would disrupt the continuity of the text. MLA is generally simpler and more economical than other styles; interruptions are kept to a minimum, usually citing just the last name of the author and the relevant page number within the text.

Some scholars in the fields of art, dance, history, music, religion, theatre and theology use Documentation Notes (endnotes or footnotes) to document sources. In this case, a list of works cited or a bibliography may be unnecessary.

*Example*

Pinker notes that memory loss, including memory for words, is an obvious and early symptom of Alzheimer's disease (281).

The List of Works Cited at the end of the paper provides the necessary information for readers to locate and retrieve any source cited in the body of the text. It lists alphabetically in this order: the last name of the author followed by the first names. In the case of a book with one author, the title of the book comes next, italicised, with the initial letter of each significant word in the title capitalised. This is followed by the place of publication, and the name of the publisher, the year of publication, and finally the medium.

*Example*

Pinker, Steven. *Words and Rules: the Ingredients of Language*. London: Phoenix, 1999. Print.

**CHICAGO**

The Chicago notes-bibliography citation system, used by some humanities and social sciences, signals to the reader by a superscript number at the end of the sentence that a source has been used:

*Example*

According to Pinker, memory loss, including memory for words, is an obvious and early symptom of Alzheimer's disease.1

The source of the quotation and information about the author, title and publication details and the relevant page numbers are then cited in a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page, or endnote at the end of the paper. If the text is cited again, the subsequent notes may be shortened.2

Although the same information appears in both the notes and the bibliography it serves two different functions: The notes supply a quick check of the source, and the bibliography illustrates the extent of the research and the relationship to earlier studies. Thus both notes and bibliography are usually provided. There are, however, slight differences in punctuation since the notes are designed to be read as text and the bibliography constitutes a list of independent entries. The author's name appears in the notes as first name last name, Mickey Mouse, while the bibliography entry inverts them, Mouse, M.

Number all notes consecutively from 1. Substantive notes are inserted as appropriate within the list of footnotes.3
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1 Steven Pinker, *Words and Rules: The Ingredients of Language* (London: Phoenix, 1999), 281.

2 Pinker, *Words and Rules*, 297.

3 Supplementary information that would disrupt the flow of the text ...