the **LENS** JOURNAL

Formatting and Citation Guidelines

When submitting your research paper, make sure it's properly cited, to comply with our [Academic Honesty guidelines](#).

The MLA citation style is primarily used in the humanities, such as history, literature, language, philosophy, arts, theater, religion, anthropology, law and politics.

The APA citation style is commonly used in social sciences, such as psychology, sociology, business and education.

While you can use any style of citation you wish, you may want to choose the style that works best for your paper, and, most importantly, stay consistent in your usage.

Here is a table of key differences between the style with formatting requirements:

	APA	MLA
Spacing	Double	Double
Font	Times New Roman 12	Times New Roman 12
Margin	1" / 2.54 cm	1" / 2.54 cm
In-text quotation, direct	(last name, year of publication, p.#)	(last name p.#)
In-text quotation, indirect	According to *author's name* (year).... (p#)	According to *author's name, ….* (p#).
Bibliography Name	References	Works Cited
Order of citations	Alphabetical for authors Chronological for works	Alphabetical for authors and for works

General example:

	APA	MLA
In-text	(Dickens, 2016, p.76)	(Dickens 76)
In Bibliography	Dickens, C. (2016). *Great Expectations*. GENERAL PRESS.	Dickens, Charles. *Great Expectations*. GENERAL PRESS, 2016.

Practical example: *'So I called myself Pip, and came to be called Pip."*

	APA	MLA
In-text, direct	According to Dickens (1861), "So, I called myself Pip, and came to be called Pip." (p. 1)	According to Dickens, "So, I called myself Pip, and came to be called Pip." (1)
In text, indirect	In the opening of the novel, Dickens (1861) introduces the protagonist who refers to himself as Pip and is later known as Pip (p. 1).	In the opening of the novel, Dickens introduces the protagonist who refers to himself as Pip and is later known as Pip (1).
In Bibliography	References Dickens, C. (2016). *Great Expectations*. GENERAL PRESS.	Works Cited Dickens, Charles. *Great Expectations*. GENERAL PRESS, 2016.

What to include:

Title

Abstract *(Approximately 150-250 words)*
Briefly summarize the research problem, the methodology, your main findings, and the conclusion.

Keywords
Keyword 1, Keyword 2, Keyword 3, Keyword 4, Keyword 5 (3-5)

Introduction *(Approximately half to one page)*
- **Background:** Briefly introduce the topic, its relevance, and identify the knowledge gap.
- **Research Problem and Objectives:** State your research question and what you aim to achieve.

Literature Review *(Approximately 1-2 pages)*
Provide a concise review of the key literature related to your research topic, focusing on the most relevant studies.

Methods *(Approximately 1-2 pages)*
Describe the research methodology used:
- **Study Design:** Outline your study design and the reasons behind your choices.
- **Data Collection:** Briefly describe your data collection methods.
- **Data Analysis:** Outline your data analysis methods.

Results *(Varies depending on data and analysis)*
Present your findings in a clear, succinct manner, using visual aids like tables or graphs

Discussion *(Approximately 1-2 pages)*
Discuss your findings, their relation to your objectives, the existing literature, any limitations, and their implications.

Conclusion *(Approximately half to one page)*
Summarize your findings and their implications, and propose directions for future research.

Acknowledgements

Acknowledge those who contributed to the research but do not qualify for authorship and your funding sources.

References

List all the sources you referred to. Ensure you follow the appropriate citation style as per the journal's guidelines.

Appendices

Include any additional relevant materials that don't fit in the main body of the paper.