

ENGL 1301: Argument Essay

Prewriting #1: Converting MLA to APA Format

Purpose

This prewriting exercise will help you transform your informative synthesis essay from MLA format to APA format, which is commonly used in the social sciences and other disciplines. This change in formatting reflects the transition from informative to argumentative writing and will prepare you for diverse academic writing expectations.

Instructions

Part A: Document Formatting Changes

To help you with these, see [Writing down the Basics](#) pp. 88-95 for instructions on how to do these things.

1. **Create a new document** using your informative synthesis essay as the starting point. Save as or save a copy. Name it Essay 3, Argument Essay, or whatever makes sense to you. Just make sure you retain a copy of your MLA formatted Informative Synthesis essay.
2. **Update the font and spacing:**
 - It should stay the same.
3. **Header and Page Numbers:**
 - Update to APA style
4. **Title Page:** Create an APA title page

Part B: In-Text Citation Changes

To help you with these, see [Writing down the Basics](#) pp. 98-105 or [the Purdue OWL APA](#) section for instructions on how to do these things.

1. **Parenthetical Citations:** Convert MLA citations to APA format
 - MLA: (Author's Last Name #)
 - APA: (Author's Last Name, Year, p. #)

Part C: Works Cited → References Changes

1. To change your MLA Work Cited page sources to APA format, use any or all of these:
 - [The library database](#) for anything you got from the library. Look it up there and then select the citation option and make sure you get the APA citation.
 - [The Purdue OWL APA](#) section.
 - AI, but double check your work—work with the writing center tutors.