

Video Transcript: Recognize a Publication Type by its Citation

In this video you will learn how to recognize a publication type by its citation—a very brief, descriptive entry that you might find in a reading list, bibliography, or a database. A citation gives you information about your source’s content and how to find it.

There are many examples of the different types of resources (or publication types) that you will come across in your academic research; these include, but are not limited to, journal articles, newspaper articles, musical scores, films, theses and dissertations, and conference proceedings.

Let’s go over the components of a citation; regardless of publication type, all citations have the same basic elements that are arranged in a specific order: author’s name, date of publication, title of the item, etc. You can always recognize a journal article citation by the italicized journal title and volume number and or issue number. You can also recognize a citation of a book chapter if you see the preposition “in” followed by the book’s title.

In this video we will distinguish between four distinct publication types—a book, a book chapter, a journal article, and a website—and we will see how all four are rendered in three different citation styles: APA, MLA, and Chicago.

When citing a book in APA, MLA, and Chicago, you’ll notice the similarities between all three citation styles. All of the citations contain the same basic components, such author, title, publisher, and date of publication, but arrange them slightly differently.

In APA the date of publication follows the author’s name where as in MLA and Chicago the publication date goes at the end. Also, notice that in MLA you have to specify whether your source is in print or electronic format.

When citing a book chapter in APA, MLA, and Chicago, you will notice that the title of the chapter is in quotation marks in both MLA and Chicago but not in APA. The title of the book from which the chapter is taken, in Chicago Style, contains the preposition “in.” The editor designation appears in different forms in all three

styles. The dates and page numbers also appear in different places in all three styles.

When citing a print journal article in APA, MLA, and Chicago, you will notice that the title of the journal articles is in quotation marks in both MLA and Chicago but not in APA. The date of publication in APA follows the author's name whereas in MLA and Chicago it follows the volume number. The journal's volume number is italicized in APA, but not in MLA and Chicago. Lastly, in MLA you have to specify whether your source is in print or electronic format.

When citing a website in APA, MLA, and Chicago Style, you will notice the differences in arranging the authors' names. There are also differences in how the website's publication date is expressed in the three styles. The date of when you accessed the website is also presented differently across the styles. Finally, the presentation of the website's url is also different in all three styles.

If you have any questions about publications types and how to cite them, visit your local writing centre for personalized help.