Citation Clue Hunt

Sort direct quotations by citation style.

11-12.W "Students compose writing and presentations for various genres which demonstrate a command of English grammar and usage through the writing and research processes; compositions will include correct use of standard formatting (e.g., MLA..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

MLA, AUTHOR AND PAGE

For a direct quotation, an MLA parenthetical citation gives the author's last name and page number. It does not put a comma between them.

"The tide receded at dawn" (Valdez 42).

APA, AUTHOR, YEAR, AND PAGE

For a direct quotation, an APA parenthetical citation gives the author's last name, publication year, and page number. Commas separate the parts, and "p." marks the page.

"The lantern stayed lit" (Bennett, 2019, p. 73).

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle PAGE or YEAR for each citation; for Part 2, choose one item from each category and explain the clues that helped you decide.

1. "Bees visited the orchard" (Rivera 27). PAGE YEAR
2. "The mural covered the wall" (Kim, 2020, p. 11). PAGE YEAR
3. "Glass cooled slowly" (Ibrahim, 2024, p. 9). PAGE YEAR
4. "The trail curved uphill" (Dawson 65). PAGE YEAR
5. "A violin played softly" (Nguyen 34). PAGE YEAR
6. "Clouds hid the summit" (Brooks 51). PAGE YEAR
7. "Seeds rested beneath snow" (Adeyemi, 2018, p. 46). PAGE YEAR
8. "The kettle began to whistle" (Singh 83). PAGE YEAR

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose one item from each category and explain the clues that helped you decide.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write two original quotations from imagined sources, one with an MLA parenthetical citation and one with an APA parenthetical citation. Invent each author's last name and page number, and invent a year for the APA citation.

PAGE _____

YEAR _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite item 4 in APA style. Keep its quotation, author's last name, and page number, but invent a publication year.

ANSWER KEY

Citation Clue Hunt

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	"Bees visited the orchard" (Rivera 27).	**PAGE**	MLA gives the surname and page without a comma or year.
2	"The mural covered the wall" (Kim, 2020, p. 11).	**YEAR**	APA includes a year and marks the quoted page with "p."
3	"Glass cooled slowly" (Ibrahim, 2024, p. 9).	**YEAR**	APA separates the surname, year, and page with commas.
4	"The trail curved uphill" (Dawson 65).	**PAGE**	MLA gives the surname and page without a year.
5	"A violin played softly" (Nguyen 34).	**PAGE**	MLA places the page number after the surname without a comma.
6	"Clouds hid the summit" (Brooks 51).	**PAGE**	MLA gives the surname and page without a year or "p."
7	"Seeds rested beneath snow" (Adeyemi, 2018, p. 46).	**YEAR**	APA includes the publication year and a marked page number.
8	"The kettle began to whistle" (Singh 83).	**PAGE**	MLA gives the surname and page without commas.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Choose one item from each category and explain the clues that helped you decide.
Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **PAGE**: "Bats hunt after sunset" (Olsen 16).
- **YEAR**: "Rain fed the garden" (Patel, 2022, p. 8).

Challenge: "The trail curved uphill" (Dawson, 2021, p. 65).

All quotations and sources are invented for citation practice. For Part 2, accept explanations that identify the year and "p." in an APA citation or their absence in an MLA citation.