

# Main Differences Between Reference and Citation

## Reference

1. The difference between Reference and Citation is that reference is the list of sources that you used in your research paper, assignment, or articles and mention them towards the end of your writing.
2. *References* are a list of sources at the end of your writings that support your point and arguments in your writings.
3. You may need to list your references in your articles, research papers, lab reports, publications, books, blogs, academic assignments, conference papers, etc.
4. It has a special format which needs to be followed and can be different for different institutions. Generally, you need to mention them as endnotes with every resource containing author name, the title of the article or publication, and the page number.
5. One very popular format is the APA (American Psychological Association) format. But there are other styles too like the Modern Language Association (MLA).
6. They may also use a different name for the heading of references. For example, it may be "Works cited" or "Bibliography".
7. It tells the readers that you read these items, consulted, and considered them in your writing pieces. The readers can further refer to those sources in case they need more information.
8. It is advised to writers to use reliable and genuine resources in their references as it lends credibility to their work. It further supports your ideas well.

## Citation

1. *Citations* are the sources you mention inside the body of your writings that tell the readers where the information has been taken from.

2. Citations are all the sources you mention in the body of your writing. The information could be in direct quotes or paraphrased in your writings.
3. Whenever you talk about a theory or model in your work, you mention the author's name and publication date to inform the readers about the authenticity of the information provided in the article.
4. It is usually mentioned in the brackets. If you mention a direct quote in your writing, then you may also need to write the page number in your citation.
5. So, a particular format is followed which was developed by the American Psychological Association (APA) and is called the APA format. However, different associations have created their unique formats too.
6. A piece of writing with citations increases the quality of your work and people perceive you as a respected writer or researcher.
7. Citing your work also saves you from plagiarism allegations because you are writing the source you have taken the information from. You are not taking the credit for those ideas.
8. It also distinguishes your original ideas and thoughts in your paper from the other authors you have cited. This can tell readers what arguments the other authors have vs. what is your point of view.

**Some of the features that differentiate between reference and citation are given below:**

1. *References* are a list of sources you gained information from in your writings while *citations* are the sources you mention inside the body of the text.
2. *References* are mentioned at the end of the writings while *citations* are mentioned in the body of your writings.
3. *References* are mentioned as endnotes in the piece of writing whereas *citations* are mentioned in the brackets inside the text.



4. Writing a *reference* includes the name of the author, the title of the publication or book, page number. Writing a *citation* includes the name of the author, page number, or publication date.
5. The purpose of a *reference* is to support your point or argument in your article whereas the purpose of a *citation* is to indicate the resource you have taken the information from.

