

## Citing Social Media

As more and more communication happens on social media, we can find our academic work contains references to tweets and YouTube videos, among other social media types. You may even use something you wrote on your own social media! Using social media in a paper or other assignment is just like using any other type of source in that it needs to be cited correctly. Here are the rules for citing popular social media sources in the APA, MLA, and Chicago.

### APA

- **Facebook Post:** Account Name. (Year, Month Day). *The first twenty words of the post should be used here for the title.* [Status update]. Facebook. URL
  - Hashtags and URLs count as one word toward the title, and any emojis included in the first 20 words should not be italicized.
  - If the source includes an attachment like a video, image, or link, that should be noted in brackets after the title like [Video attached], [Image attached], or [Thumbnail with link attached].
- **Tweet/Instagram/TikTok Post:** Author's Last Name, First Initial [@username]. (Year, Month Day). *The first twenty words of the tweet or post should be used here for the title.* [Tweet]. Twitter. URL
  - Tweets and other posts also follow the rules about hashtags, URLs, emojis and source attachments as Facebook posts.
- **YouTube Video:** Username. (Year, Month Day) *Title of the video* [Video]. YouTube. URL

### MLA

- **Facebook Post:** Author's Last Name, Author's First Name **OR** Account Name. Description of the Post Content. *Facebook*, Day MMM. YYYY, Time of Post, URL. Accessed Day MMM. YYYY.
  - For the months, June and July should be spelled out fully, and September is Sept.
- **Tweet:** @Twitter handle (Author's First and Last Name). "The text of the entire tweet.." *Twitter*, Day MMM. YYYY of Tweet, Time of Tweet, URL.
- **YouTube Video:** Author Last Name, Author First Name **OR** Username. "Title of the Video." *YouTube*, uploaded by Username, Day MMM. YYYY, Video URL. Accessed Day MMM. YYYY.
  - If you're citing a video from another streaming site like Vimeo, you should use this same format and put the correct host site in place of YouTube.

### Chicago

- **Facebook Post:** Author's Last Name, Author's First Name **OR** Account Name. Year. "Title of Post." Facebook, Month Day, Year. URL.
- **Tweet:** Author's Last Name, Author's First Name **OR** Username. (@handle). Year. "The text of the entire tweet.." Twitter, Month Day, Year, time of post. URL.
- **YouTube Video:** Author's Last Name, Author's First Name **OR** Username. Year. "Title of the Video." Uploaded on Month Day, Year. YouTube video, length of video. URL.
  - If you're citing a video from another streaming site like Vimeo, you should use this same format and put the correct host site in place of YouTube.
  - The video length should be formatted 00:00:00 hours/minutes.