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### Writing Centers and Documenting Sources

Many instructors at Antelope Valley College assign research papers that require students to document sources they have found to support their thesis statement. Diane Flores-Kagan, Writing Center Learning Specialist, states, “Many instructors assign papers requiring a style developed by the Modern Language Association (MLA), and others prefer the American Psychological Association (APA) format.” While these are two of the most common documentation styles at Antelope Valley College, students intending to transfer to universities may find that their professors require other documentation styles such as Chicago or Turabian (Chan and Gomez 12). It is important, therefore, that students be prepared to meet the challenges of citing sources properly so they can avoid unintentional plagiarism. Writing centers can help students with information about documentation offered in a variety of ways.

First of all, workshops on many aspects of documentation are held on college campuses. Workshops are typically led by writing center instructors. New York University scholar Carla Adams recommends that “students at various colleges and universities attend workshops to receive instruction from faculty learning specialists trained in various documentation styles” (76). At Antelope Valley College, MLA and APA workshops are offered most often; however, small group sessions that focus on other styles can be arranged, according to Professor Flores-Kagan. For instance, science majors may ask for help with Council of Science Editors (CSE) format, or history majors might request a session on using Chicago Manual of Style (CMS).