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BA English Honours | Semester VI | ENG6FS113

Academic Writing

Module 3: Mechanics, Citation Formats (MLA vs. APA), and Plagiarism Avoidance • Comprehensive Notes

Chapter 3: Scholarly Ethics, Documentation, and Style Standards

Scholarly integrity requires absolute transparency regarding intellectual debt. Plagiarism—the uncredited appropriation of another scholar's words, ideas, data, or structural phrasing—is the gravest academic offense, carrying severe institutional sanctions. Scholars must master ethical citation practices and citation style mechanics.

3.1 Comparative Documentation: MLA 9th Edition vs. APA 7th Edition

Different academic disciplines utilize specialized style manuals:

Documentation Feature	MLA Style (9th Edition) - Humanities	APA Style (7th Edition) - Social Sciences
Primary Focus	Authorial agency and textual page location.	Author and publication recency (year of research).
In-Text Citation	(Said 45) - Author and page number.	(Said, 1978, p. 45) - Author, year, and page.
Final Bibliography	**Works Cited**	**References**
Core Principle	Container-based system across multimodal media.	Author-date system prioritizing empirical timeliness.

3.2 Paraphrasing, Summarizing, and Quoting

Scholars must quote directly only when the original prose has unique rhetorical or historical significance. Otherwise, scholars synthesize literature through accurate paraphrasing (re-articulating concepts in original syntax) and summarizing, always accompanied by proper in-text scholarly attribution.

Advanced Critical Theory, Hermeneutics & Literary Praxis

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Critical inquiry into Module 3: Mechanics, Citation Formats (MLA vs. APA), and Plagiarism Avoidance reveals how textual forms construct meaning through complex aesthetic strategies and structural choices:

- **Structuralism and Semiotic Deconstruction:** The organization of signs, tropes, and syntactical structures establishes narrative authority while simultaneously revealing internal fissures. Binary oppositions embedded within the discourse—such as center versus margin, tradition versus modernity,

and subjective interiority versus objective reality—are systematically problematized through textual slippages and ambiguous signifiers.

- **Postcolonial and Subaltern Interventions:** Interrogating power dynamics, linguistic hegemony, and epistemic violence within the literature demonstrates how marginalized voices negotiate, resist, or appropriate dominant canonical modes. The representation of colonial encounters, diaspora, and regional identity operates not merely as a passive backdrop but as an active agent reshaping literary genres.
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2. Historiographical Context and Reception Theory

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