

# Capitalization after Colons: Cheat Sheet

## General Rules

- **Do not** capitalize after a colon if you're introducing a list.
- When a colon introduces an incomplete sentence, **do not** capitalize the first letter unless it is a proper noun.

## Chicago

Capitalize the first letter after a colon if:

- The first word after the colon is a proper noun
- The colon introduces 2 or more sentences
- The colon introduces speech in dialogue, a quotation, or a question

## APA

Capitalize the first letter after a colon if:

- The first word after the colon is a proper noun
- The colon introduces a complete sentence

## MLA

Capitalize the first letter after a colon if the colon introduces:

- A rule or principle
- Several related sentences
- A proper noun