Formatting

Figure 1: Top of the first page of a paper

Papers in MLA format should follow these guidelines:
- The entire paper, from the heading through the Works Cited page, should be double spaced.
- Each page should have a **header** one half inch from the top of the page with the author's last name and the page number. This header begins on the first page and will automatically appear on subsequent pages.
- The four-line **heading** appears only on the first page (**not** in the header) and should include the student name, professor name, course name and number, and date typed in the top left corner and double spaced.
- The title of the paper should be centered, capitalized, and placed below the date.

Block Quotes (MLA 76)

When a quote runs four or more lines, use the block quote format. Block quotes usually begin by introducing the source. Double space the quote and start it on a new line, usually after a colon:

> Indent the entire quote one-half inch or two tab spaces as seen here. Do not use quotation marks around a block quote. Place the citation after the period. (Westing 88)

Using Sources

Summarizing
A summary is a condensed explanation of the source's main ideas, written in one's own words. Place the citation for the summary at the end of the summarized words, even if that falls in the middle of the paragraph. Place the sentence period after the citation parentheses.

Paraphrasing
A paraphrase is a full explanation of part of the source's information in one's own words and is often lengthier than the source's original wording. Place citations at the end of the paraphrased words, even if that falls in the middle of the paragraph. Place the sentence period after the citation parentheses.

In-Text Citations (MLA 54-58)

Each time a source is quoted directly or paraphrased in a paper, it should be accurately cited in parentheses and then listed on the Works Cited page. Follow these basic guidelines when citing sources:
- Most in-text citations consist of the author's last name and the page number where the information was found.
- If the author's name is mentioned in the sentence, only include the page number in the citation.
- Always place quotation marks around direct quotes.
- Paraphrasing needs citation but not quotation marks.
- Citations are placed after quotation marks, but the period goes after the citation: "Put the period after the citation" (Smith 389).

Common Citations in the Text of a Paper
One Author
(Jackson 1).
Two Authors
(Jackson and Hess 239).
Three or More Authors
(Jackson et al. 23).
No Author
(Use the first two or three words from title).
"Black Hair is Better" ("Black Hair" 37).
More Than One Work by the Same Author
(Add title to citation).
(Bartholomae, "Inventing the University" 635).
Indirect Sources
(qtd. in Neuhaus 65).

Works Cited

Each source that is quoted or paraphrased in a paper should be listed on the Works Cited page. Entries should be in alphabetical order, double spaced, and formatted with a hanging indent.

Tyson 15

Works Cited

Bounder, Marcus. "Typhoon." *The Heath Anthology of American Literature,* edited by Paul Lauter, 4th ed., vol. 2, Houghton, 2002, pp. 5-27.

Figure 2: Top of a Works Cited page

MLA Core Elements (MLA 20)

Citations are formed by ordering information based on its level of importance. For each of the sources listed in the Works Cited page, information is presented in the following hierarchy with proper punctuation. These core elements are as follows:
1- author.
2- title of source.
3- title of container,
4- other contributors,
5- version,
6- number,
7- publisher,
8- publication date,
9- location.

Recommended Elements (MLA 50-53)

Depending on how you use the source, some citations might require additional information. The positioning of these optional elements varies. Some elements are placed in the middle of the citation while others are at the end of the citation. Examples of these are shown throughout our other citations.
1- Date of Original Publication
2- City of Publication
3- Multivolume Publication
4-Source's Series
5-Unexpected Source Format
6- Lecture or Address Heard in Person
7-Source's Prior Publication
8- United States Congress Document
9- Date of Access **(Highly Recommended)

Printed Sources

Book with One Author (MLA 21)

Jackson, Molly. *Good Timing*. Penguin, 2000.

Book with Two or Three Authors (MLA 21-22)

Jackson, Molly, and Janet Hess. *Going Crazy*.
Doubleday, 1999.

(In sources with more than three authors, either list each author's name or put et al. after the first author's name.)

Book with an Editor or Translator (MLA 37-38)

Larsson, Stieg. *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*.
Translated by Reg Keeland, Knopf Doubleday, 2005.

Work in an Anthology (MLA 35, 52)

Dreiser, Theodore. "Typhoon." *The Heath Anthology
of American Literature*, edited by Paul Lauter, 4th
ed., vol. 2, Houghton, 2002, pp. 5-27.

Journal Article (MLA 30)

Hagi, George. "Famous Romanian Footballers." *The
Wheston Review,* vol. 10, no. 2, 1994, pp. 12-17.

Newspaper Article (MLA 30)

Wilson, Tim. "Nitwit Hunt." *The Salt Lake Tribune*, 24
Jan. 1982, pp. B1+.

Magazine Article (MLA 30)

Connor, Tom. "Writing in Style." *Writer's Digest*, 12
Aug. 2005, pp. 25-29.

Personal Interview (MLA 28, 29)

Feal, Rosemary G. Personal Interview. 6 Feb. 2017.

Online Sources

A variety of useful resources are available online. Before using online sources, confirming that the information is reputable and reliable is important. It is important to note, though, that each element of a reference is not always available for each source. If you cannot find every element, cite what is available. If the article you found online was also printed, first cite it like a printed article, and then add information about the electronic version. The following are examples of some possible references.

*For reference order, see core elements.

Article in an Online Periodical (MLA 32, 45)

Dostal, Petr, et al. "The Impact of an Invasive Plant
Changes Over Time." *Ecology Letters,* vol. 16, 2013,
pp. 1277-1284. *EBSCO Host,* doi: 10.1111/ele.12166.
Accessed 15 Nov. 2017.

Website

CNN.com. Cable News Network. Accessed 3 May 2017.

Webpage (MLA 30)

Etrusia. "Who Were the Normans?" *The Normans: The
Norman Invasion and Conquest of England,*
normans.etrusia.co.uk/whowere.php. Accessed 14
Nov. 2017.

Online Subscription Source (MLA 32)

May, Leila S. "Foul Things of the Night: Dread in the
Victorian Body." *The Modern Language Review,*
vol. 93, no. 1, 1998, pp. 16-22. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.
org/stable/3733619. Accessed 19 Sept. 2017.

Online Book (MLA 34)

Hindley, Geoffrey. *Medieval Sieges & Siegecraft.*
NewYork, Skyhorse Publishing, 2009. *EBSCO Host,*
web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/detail/?nobk=y.
Accessed 2 Nov. 2017.

YouTube Video (MLA 44)

Morris, Marc. "Castle Episode 1: Tower of London
& Dover Castle." Discovery Channel, 2003. *Youtube,*
uploaded by HistoriaandHistory, 2016, www.
youtube.com/watch?= slLf. Accessed 6 Dec. 2017.

Movie (MLA 41)

Peter Jackson, director. *The Lord of the Rings:
Fellowship of the Ring.* New Line Cinema, 2001.

TV Series (MLA 40)

Pretty Little Liars. ABC Family, 8 June 2010-present.

TV Episode (MLA 33, 40)

"Fear Itself." *Teen Titans,* directed by Michael Chang,
written by Dwayne McDuffie, season 2, episode 5,
Cartoon Network, 2004.

Corporate Authors (MLA 117)

- When citing corporate authors, omit any initial article; i.e., *a, an*, or *the*.
- Cite the book by the corporate author even if the corporate author is also the publisher.

National Research Council. *Beyond Six Billion:
Forecasting the World's Population.* Washington,
Natl. Acad., 2000.

MLA Documentation
8th Edition Quick Reference Guide

What is MLA Style?

Modern Language Association (MLA) citation style is the formatting method used by academic humanities writers generally to help scholars lead one another to the sources they have used in their writing.

This edition of the MLA style guide is best used with reference to its very helpful and in-depth website:

style.mla.org