

Guide to the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers

This guide describes the format recommended by the Modern Language Association (MLA) for preparing a research paper. Examples of references are listed on the reverse side. For questions not answered by this guide, consult the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers at the Reference Desk.

BASIC FORMAT:

- Use standard sized paper, 8 ½ x 11 inches.
- All margins (top, bottom, and sides) should be one inch wide.
- Type the paper double-spaced.
- Do not justify the right margin.
- Indent the first line of each paragraph five spaces.
- There is no separate title page. On the first page, beginning in the upper left corner, at the margin and one inch from the top of the page, type the following information double-spaced.

Your name

Your professor's name

Course title and number

Date

The Title: centered, upper and lower case letters.

Double space, then begin the text of the paper.

Jane Vyse

Professor Martini

ENG 327 Literature in Film

September 29, 1999

Perspectives of Cinematic . . .

Works of classical literature appear frequently as . . .

- Number each page in the upper right corner, ½ inch from the top of the page. Include your last name before the number.

Example: **Smith 2**

- Underline titles of books, names of plays, magazine titles, titles of films, etc.

Example: Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet will be presented at the College Theater in October.

- Use quotation marks for titles of works published within a larger work: titles of articles, a short story in a collection, poems, chapters of books, etc. Example: The importance of provenance is addressed in Pfeiffer's essay "Masterpieces of Art and Prior Ownership."

CITING ANOTHER PERSON'S IDEAS OR WORK:

- Give credit for ideas you have paraphrased by including the author's last name and page number from the original source in parentheses.
- Place quotation marks around words and sentences quoted directly. Include the author's last name and page number in parentheses.

Examples:

Bradford's research indicates that the Elizabethan era was a fashion conscious age, and clothing indicative of one's wealth (153).

-or-

One historian states that "the Elizabethan era was a highly fashion conscious age, and clothing was a primary indicator of wealth" (Bradford 153).

WORKS CITED

In MLA style, the **Works Cited** list appears at the end of your paper, beginning with a new page. Center the title, Works Cited, one inch from the top of the page. Citations are arranged alphabetically, by author, or by title if there is

no author. The first line of each citation begins at the left margin and all additional lines of the citation are indented five spaces. Double space each entry and double space between entries. (To save space, examples on this page are not double-spaced. Your list should be double-spaced.) The Works Cited list includes only those works you have actually cited in the text of your paper. If you read additional sources when conducting your research but do not make reference to them in the text of your paper, do not include them.

Books

One Author

Duffy, William. The Mind and the Film. New York: Harper, 1991.

Two or Three Authors

Maddux, Rachel, Stirling Silliphant, and Neil D. Isaacs. Fiction into Film. Knoxville: U of Tennessee P, 1970.

More than Three Authors

Mead, Sophia, et al. Classics of the Silver Screen. New York: Columbia U P, 1990.

Editor

Young, Thomas Daniel, ed. The New Criticism and After. Charlottesville: U P of Virginia, 1976.

Unknown author

Encyclopedia of Photography. 1st ed., 2 vols. New York: Crown, 1984.

Work in an anthology or collection

Bahr, Donald. "Dream Songs." Handbook of Native American Literature. Ed. Andrew Wiget. New York: Garland, 1996. 119-123.

Entry in an encyclopedia or dictionary

"Ethnomusicology." The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians. London: Macmillan, 1980.

PERIODICALS

Journal

Marshall, Robert L. "Film as Musicology: Amadeus." Musical Quarterly 81.2 (1997): 173-9.

Magazine

Gray, Paul. "Paradise Found." Time 19 Jan. 1998: 62-68.

Newspaper

Marks, Peter. "Great Literature. Period Costumes. That Is So Cool." New York Times 20 June 1999, late ed.: D18+.

Anonymous

"Guide to the New Ratings of the Motion Picture Academy." Newsweek 22 Apr. 1999: 42.

ONLINE DATABASES

Include author; title of poem, short story, article, book, or database (in quotation marks or underlined, as appropriate); title of database, periodical, or professional or personal site (underlined); name of editor (if given); date of electronic publication or latest update (if available); date of access; and network address (URL) in angle brackets.

World Wide Web Site

"Concordances - Austen, Jane - All Novels." Concordances of Great Books. Ed. Bill Williams. 22 Sept. 1999
<<http://www.concordance.com/austen.htm>>.

Electronic text from a World Wide Web site

Carroll, Lewis. The Nursery "Alice". Lewis Carroll's Writings. Ed. Cathy Dean. 14 May 1998. 22 Sept. 1999
<<http://home.earthlink.net/~lfdean/carroll/nursery/index.html>>.

Journal article from a World Wide Web site (Include citation, date of access and URL)

Wood, Naomi. "Domesticating Dreams in Walt Disney's *Cinderella*." The Lion and the Unicorn 20.1 (1996) 25-49.
24 Sept. 1999 <http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/lion_and_the_unicorn/v020/20.1wood.html>.

Material from electronic journals and newspapers (Include citation, date of access and URL)

"Featured Author: Ernest Hemingway." The New York Times on the Web. 1999. 22 Sept. 1999
<<http://www.nytimes.com/books/99/07/11/specials/hemingway-main.html>>.

Additional information on citing electronic sources is available at the web site of the Modern Language Association
<<http://www.mla.org/style/sources.htm>>.