

1: MLA Style: Writing Guide - A Research Guide for Students

MLA (Modern Language Association) style is most commonly used to write papers and cite sources within the liberal arts and humanities. This resource, updated to reflect the MLA Handbook (8th ed.), offers examples for the general format of MLA research papers, in-text citations, endnotes/footnotes, and the Works Cited page.

Guidelines for Formatting the Paper Margins should be one inch all the way around unless otherwise instructed by the professor. Spacing Double spacing is required throughout the entire paper, including the reference page. Page Numbering The first page of text is considered the first page of the paper. The page number is placed on the upper right-hand side of the page, half an inch from the top of the page, and is preceded by the last name of the author. Be certain to also number the reference pages in the same manner. Be sure that the font used for the last name and page number are in the same font as the rest of the paper. Be sure to watch the video on formatting a paper in Word. If no author is given, use a shortened version of the title of the work. Planning is the first step to attaining a goal Jones When an author or title is mentioned in the text, then repeating that information in the parenthetical reference is not necessary. Jones theorizes that setting goals is essential to success When there are two authors, use both names in the text or the parenthetical citation. Jones and Cruz theorize that setting goals is the first step towards success Setting goals is the first step towards success Jones and Cruz Goal setting is related with success Jones et al. Sample paragraph with in-text citations: When told by fellow Republicans that he was losing ground, Dewey insisted that his campaign not alter its course. Even Time magazine, though it endorsed and praised him, conceded that his speeches were dull McCullough Every source used quoted or paraphrased in the paper must be recorded on the reference page. This should be a separate page placed at the end of the paper and titled Works Cited, but it is still numbered like the rest of the pages in the paper. If no author is given, citations are alphabetized by title articles a, an, the not used. See the First Page tab for an example of the first page. The Works Cited page begins at the top of a new page and is also numbered. Each citation is indicated by a hanging indent.

2: MLA Format: Everything You Need to Know Here

Fig. 1. The top of the first page of a research paper. A research paper does not normally need a title page, but if the paper is a group project, create a title page and list all the authors on it instead of in the header on page 1 of your essay.

When printing this page, you must include the entire legal notice. This material may not be published, reproduced, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed without permission. Use of this site constitutes acceptance of our terms and conditions of fair use. MLA Modern Language Association style is most commonly used to write papers and cite sources within the liberal arts and humanities. This resource, updated to reflect the MLA Handbook 8th ed. MLA style specifies guidelines for formatting manuscripts and using the English language in writing. MLA style also provides writers with a system for referencing their sources through parenthetical citation in their essays and Works Cited pages. Writers who properly use MLA also build their credibility by demonstrating accountability to their source material. Most importantly, the use of MLA style can protect writers from accusations of plagiarism, which is the purposeful or accidental uncredited use of source material by other writers. The MLA Handbook is available in most writing centers and reference libraries; it is also widely available in bookstores, libraries, and at the MLA web site. See the Additional Resources section of this handout for a list of helpful books and sites about using MLA style. Below are some basic guidelines for formatting a paper in MLA style.

General Guidelines Type your paper on a computer and print it out on standard, white 8. Double-space the text of your paper, and use a legible font e. Whatever font you choose, MLA recommends that the regular and italics type styles contrast enough that they are recognizable one from another. The font size should be 12 pt. Leave only one space after periods or other punctuation marks unless otherwise instructed by your instructor. Set the margins of your document to 1 inch on all sides. Indent the first line of paragraphs one half-inch from the left margin. Create a header that numbers all pages consecutively in the upper right-hand corner, one-half inch from the top and flush with the right margin. Your instructor may ask that you omit the number on your first page. Use italics throughout your essay for the titles of longer works and, only when absolutely necessary, providing emphasis. If you have any endnotes, include them on a separate page before your Works Cited page. Entitle the section Notes centered, unformatted.

Formatting the First Page of Your Paper Do not make a title page for your paper unless specifically requested. Again, be sure to use double-spaced text. Double space again and center the title. Do not underline, italicize, or place your title in quotation marks; write the title in Title Case standard capitalization , not in all capital letters. Create a header in the upper right-hand corner that includes your last name, followed by a space with a page number; number all pages consecutively with Arabic numerals 1, 2, 3, 4, etc. Always follow instructor guidelines. Here is a sample of the first page of a paper in MLA style: These sections may include individual chapters or other named parts of a book or essay. Essays MLA recommends that when you divide an essay into sections that you number those sections with an arabic number and a period followed by a space and the section name.

3: MLA Format Citation Generator & Guide

EasyBib Guide to MLA 8 Format. The Modern Language Association (MLA) is an organization responsible for developing MLA format, often called MLA style. MLA format was developed as a means for researchers, students, and scholars in the literature and language fields to use a uniform way to format their papers and assignments.

This page provides an in-depth overview of MLA format. It includes information related to MLA citations, plagiarism, proper formatting for in-text and regular citations, and examples of citations for many different types of sources. How to Be a Responsible Researcher or Scholar: Putting together a research project involves searching for information, disseminating and analyzing information, collecting information, and repurposing information. Being a responsible researcher requires keeping track of the sources that were used to help develop your research project, sharing the information you borrowed in an ethical way, and giving credit to the authors of the sources you used. Doing all of these things prevents plagiarism. There are many examples of plagiarism. Changing or modifying quotes, text, or any work of another individual is also plagiarism. Believe it or not, you can even plagiarize yourself! Re-using a project or paper from another class or time and saying that it is new is plagiarism. One way to prevent plagiarism is to add citations in your project where appropriate. What is a Citation? A citation shows the reader or viewer of your project where you found your information. Citations are included in the body of a project when you add a quote into your project. These citations that are found in the body of a research paper are called in-text, or parenthetical citations. These citations are found directly after the information that was borrowed and are very brief in order to avoid becoming distracted while reading a project. Included in these brief citations is usually just the last name of the author and a page number or the year published. Scroll down below for an in-depth explanation and examples of in-text and parenthetical citations. Look on the last page or part of a research project, where complete citations can be found in their entirety. Complete citations are found on what is called an MLA Works Cited page, which is sometimes called a bibliography. All sources that were used to develop your research project are found on the Works Cited page. Complete citations are created for any quotes or paraphrased information used in the text, but also any sources that helped you develop your research project. Looking to create your citations in just a few clicks? [Click here](#) to see more across the site. Also, check out this article to see MLA citation in the news. Why Does it Matter? Citing your sources is an extremely important component of your research project. It also shows that you were able to locate appropriate and reputable sources that helped back up your thesis or claim. In addition, if your work ends up being posted online or in print, there is a chance that others will use your research project in their own work! Scroll down to find directions on how to create citations. The Modern Language Association is an organization that was created to develop guidelines on everything language and literature related. They have guidelines on proper grammar usage and research paper layouts. In addition, they have English and foreign language committees, numerous books and journal publications, and an annual conference. The Modern Language Association is responsible for creating standards and guidelines on how to properly cite sources to prevent plagiarism. Their style is most often used when writing papers and citing sources in the liberal arts and humanities fields. Liberal arts is a broad term used to describe a range of subjects including the humanities, formal sciences such as mathematics and statistics, natural sciences such as biology and astronomy, and social science such as geography, economics, history, and others. The humanities specifically focuses on subjects related to languages, art, philosophy, religion, music, theater, literature, and ethics. Believe it or not, there are thousands of other types of citation styles. While this citation style is most often used for the liberal arts and humanities fields, many other subjects, professors, and schools prefer citations and papers to be styled in MLA format. Why do we use this style? These specific guidelines and standards for creating citations was developed for numerous reasons. When scholars and researchers in the literature, language, and numerous other fields all cite their sources in the same manner, it makes it easier for readers to look at a citation and recognize and understand the different components of a source. From looking at a citation, we can see who the author is, the title of the source, when it was published, and other identifiable pieces of information. Not only would it make

it difficult to understand the source that was used, but it would also make it difficult for readers to locate it themselves. How is the new version different than previous versions? This citation style has changed dramatically over the past couple of years. Currently in its 8th edition, the 8th version is a citation style that is much different than the previous formatting style. In the 7th version, which is the format, or structure, that was previously used, researchers and scholars found it grueling to put their citations together. Each source used a different citation structure. Researchers and scholars were required to look up the citation format that matched the type of source they used. So, if a person used a book, a website, a journal article, a newspaper article, and an e-book, all in one research project, they were required to look up how to cite each one of those sources because each was structured differently. Now, with the new version of MLA formatting, which is version 8, all source types use the same citation structure. The Modern Language Association enacted this new format due to the many new and innovative ways of obtaining information. We are no longer receiving information through traditional means, such as books, websites, and articles. We can now obtain information through apps, advertisements, Tweets, other social media posts, and many other creative ways. To make the process of creating citations easier for researchers and scholars, the Modern Language Association decided to have one MLA citing format, which works for all source types. Other changes were made as well. A Deeper Look at Citations What do they look like? There are two types of citations. There are regular or complete citations, which are found at the end of research projects. Regular citations are generally placed in this MLA citation format: Last name of the author, First name of the author. There are times when additional information is added into the regular citation. Not sure how to transfer the information from your source into your citation? See the next section to find out how to create in text citations. What are in text and parenthetical citations? As stated above, in text citations, also called parenthetical citations, are included in the main part of a project when using a quote or paraphrasing a piece of information from another source. We include these types of citations in the body of a project for readers to quickly gain an idea as to where we found the information. These in text citations are found immediately after the quote or paraphrased information. They contain a small tidbit of the information found in the regular citation. The regular, or complete, citation is located at the end of a project. Too much fire and you have a bad temper We want them to focus on our work and research, not necessarily our sources. The regular citation, at the end of the project looks like this: The Joy Luck Club. If your direct quote or paraphrase comes from a source that does not have page numbers, it is acceptable to place a paragraph number use the abbreviation par. Use quotes from outside sources to help illustrate and expand on your own points, but the majority of your paper should be your own writing and ideas. Include the quote exactly as you found it. It is okay to pull and use only certain words or phrases from the quote, but keep the words spelling and capitalization and punctuation the same. It is acceptable to break up a direct quote with your own writing The entire paper should be double spaced, including quotes. If the quote is longer than four lines, it is necessary to make a block quote. Block quotes show the reader that they are about to read a lengthy amount of text from another source. Start the quote on the next line, half an inch in from the left margin Do not use any indents at the beginning of the block quote Only use quotation marks if there are quotation marks present in the source If there is more than one paragraph in the block quote, start the next paragraph with the same half inch indent Add your in-text citation at the end of the block quote Example: And I saw you and Mommy. Confused about whether footnotes and endnotes should be used? Footnotes and endnotes are not used in this style. Use in-text, or parenthetical citations, in the body of your work. In addition, create full, or regular citations, and place them at the end of your project on the Works Cited list. If you need help with in text and parenthetical citations, Citation Machine can help. Specific Components of a Citation This section explains each individual component of the citation, with examples for each section. A period closes this information. When there are two authors that work together on a source, the author names are placed in the order in which they appear on the source. Place their names in this format: Here are two examples of how to cite two authors: Clifton, Mark, and Frank Riley. There are many times when three or more authors work together on a source. This happens often with journal articles, edited books, and textbooks. To cite a source with three or more authors, place the information in this format: The other authors are accounted for by using et al.

4: Home | Modern Language Association

MLA (Modern Language Association) style is most commonly used to write papers and cite sources within the liberal arts and humanities. This resource, updated to reflect the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (7th ed.) and the MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing (3rd ed.), offers examples for the general format of MLA research papers, in-text citations, endnotes.

This page is brought to you by the OWL at Purdue <https://www.owpurdue.edu/owl>: When printing this page, you must include the entire legal notice at bottom. MLA Modern Language Association style is most commonly used to write papers and cite sources within the liberal arts and humanities. To see a side-by-side comparison of the three most widely used citation styles, including a chart of all MLA citation guidelines, see the Citation Style Chart. General Format MLA style specifies guidelines for formatting manuscripts and using the English language in writing. MLA style also provides writers with a system for referencing their sources through parenthetical citation in their essays and Works Cited pages. Writers who properly use MLA also build their credibility by demonstrating accountability to their source material. Most importantly, the use of MLA style can protect writers from accusations of plagiarism, which is the purposeful or accidental uncredited use of source material by other writers. The MLA Handbook is available in most writing centers and reference libraries; it is also widely available in bookstores, libraries, and at the MLA web site. See the Additional Resources section of this handout for a list of helpful books and sites about using MLA style. Below are some basic guidelines for formatting a paper in MLA style.

General Guidelines Type your paper on a computer and print it out on standard, white 8.5 x 11 inch paper. Double-space the text of your paper, and use a legible font size of 12 pt. Whatever font you choose, MLA recommends that the regular and italics type styles contrast enough that they are recognizable one from another. The font size should be 12 pt. Leave only one space after periods or other punctuation marks unless otherwise instructed by your instructor. Set the margins of your document to 1 inch on all sides. Indent the first line of paragraphs one half-inch from the left margin. Create a header that numbers all pages consecutively in the upper right-hand corner, one-half inch from the top and flush with the right margin. Your instructor may ask that you omit the number on your first page. Use italics throughout your essay for the titles of longer works and, only when absolutely necessary, providing emphasis. If you have any endnotes, include them on a separate page before your Works Cited page. Entitle the section Notes centered, unformatted.

Formatting the First Page of Your Paper Do not make a title page for your paper unless specifically requested. Again, be sure to use double-spaced text. Double space again and center the title. Do not underline, italicize, or place your title in quotation marks; write the title in Title Case standard capitalization, not in all capital letters. Create a header in the upper right-hand corner that includes your last name, followed by a space with a page number; number all pages consecutively with Arabic numerals 1, 2, 3, 4, etc. Always follow instructor guidelines. Here is a sample of the first page of a paper in MLA style: These sections may include individual chapters or other named parts of a book or essay. Essays MLA recommends that when you divide an essay into sections that you number those sections with an arabic number and a period followed by a space and the section name.

5: Purdue OWL // Purdue Writing Lab

1 *MLA FORMATTING AND STYLE GUIDE The Basics* MLA (Modern Language Association) style is most commonly used to write papers and cite sources within the liberal arts and humanities.

Electronic Submission Margins Except for the running head see below , leave margins of one inch at the top and bottom and on both sides of the text. **Text Formatting** Always choose an easily readable typeface Times New Roman is just one example in which the regular type style contrasts clearly with the italic, and set it to a standard size, such as 12 points. Do not justify the lines of text at the right margin; turn off any automatic hyphenation feature in your writing program. Double-space the entire research paper, including quotations, notes, and the list of works cited. Indent the first line of a paragraph half an inch from the left margin. Leave one space after a period or other concluding punctuation mark, unless your instructor prefers two spaces. On a new, double-spaced line, center the title fig. Do not italicize or underline your title, put it in quotation marks or boldface, or type it in all capital letters. Follow the rules for capitalization in the *MLA Handbook 67â€™68* , and italicize only the words that you would italicize in the text. Begin your text on a new, double-spaced line after the title, indenting the first line of the paragraph half an inch from the left margin. **The top of the first page of a research paper.** A research paper does not normally need a title page, but if the paper is a group project, create a title page and list all the authors on it instead of in the header on page 1 of your essay. If your teacher requires a title page in lieu of or in addition to the header, format it according to the instructions you are given. **Running Head with Page Numbers** Number all pages consecutively throughout the research paper in the upper right-hand corner, half an inch from the top and flush with the right margin. Type your last name, followed by a space, before the page number fig. Do not use the abbreviation p. Your writing program will probably allow you to create a running head of this kind that appears automatically on every page. Some teachers prefer that no running head appear on the first page. **The running head of a research paper.** Placement of the List of Works Cited The list of works cited appears at the end of the paper, after any endnotes. Begin the list on a new page. The list contains the same running head as the main text. The page numbering in the running head continues uninterrupted throughout. For example, if the text of your research paper including any endnotes ends on page 10, the works-cited list begins on page Center the title, Works Cited, an inch from the top of the page fig. If the list contains only one entry, make the heading Work Cited. Double-space between the title and the first entry. Begin each entry flush with the left margin; if an entry runs more than one line, indent the subsequent line or lines half an inch from the left margin. This format is sometimes called hanging indentation, and you can set your writing program to create it automatically for a group of paragraphs. Hanging indentation makes alphabetical lists easier to use. Double-space the entire list. Continue it on as many pages as necessary. **The top of the first page of a works-cited list.** **Tables and Illustrations** Place tables and illustrations as close as possible to the parts of the text to which they relate. A table is usually labeled Table, given an arabic numeral, and titled. Type both label and title flush left on separate lines above the table, and capitalize them as titles do not use all capital letters. Give the source of the table and any notes immediately below the table in a caption. To avoid confusion between notes to the text and notes to the table, designate notes to the table with lowercase letters rather than with numerals. Double-space throughout; use dividing lines as needed fig. **A table in a research paper.** Any other type of illustrative visual materialâ€™for example, a photograph, map, line drawing, graph, or chartâ€™should be labeled Figure usually abbreviated Fig. If the caption of a table or illustration provides complete information about the source and the source is not cited in the text, no entry for the source in the works-cited list is necessary. **A figure in a research paper.** Musical illustrations are labeled Example usually abbreviated Ex. Pyotr Ilich Tchaikovsky, Symphony no. A musical example in a research paper. Use a high-quality printer. **Corrections and Insertions on Printouts** Proofread and correct your research paper carefully before submitting it. If you are checking a printout and find a mistake, reopen the document, make the appropriate revisions, and reprint the corrected page or pages. Be sure to save the changed file. Spelling checkers and usage checkers are helpful when used with caution. They do not find all errors and sometimes label correct material as erroneous. Do not use the margins or write a change below the

line it affects. If corrections on any page are numerous or substantial, revise your document and reprint the page. Binding a Printed Paper Pages of a printed research paper may get misplaced or lost if they are left unattached or merely folded down at a corner. Many prefer that a paper be secured with a simple paper or binder clip, which can be easily removed and restored. Others prefer the use of staples. Electronic Submission There are at present no commonly accepted standards for the electronic submission of research papers. If you are asked to submit your paper electronically, obtain from your teacher guidelines for formatting, mode of submission e. Designed to be printed out and used in the classroom. From the MLA Handbook, 8th ed. More in the Style Center.

6: Works Cited MLA Format Creator | MLA Bibliography & Citation Maker(Builder)

MLA Format Guide. Organizing and structuring your paper in MLA style is no easy task. Luckily, we have everything you need to format your paper properly.

While MLA provides formatting guidelines for many aspects of paper-writing, including spacing, margins, headers, footnotes, and first-page formatting, it is perhaps most commonly used for in-text citations and the Bibliography, or Works Cited, section. Basic Guidelines Papers should be printed in black ink on standard, white 8. Text should be double spaced, size point, and typed in a clear font, such as Times New Roman. The header should include your last name and the page number. Instructors often ask that the header is omitted from the first page. Use italics or underlining for the titles of works you refer to in your paper. Any endnotes should be located on a separate page, before your Works Cited page. Anthology Editor s , ed s. Publisher, Year of Publication. Morgan, Emily and Samuel Baker, eds. The Evolution of Chalkboards. Book with Editor Editor. UMI, Year of Publication. Date of the message. Names of Performers as Relevant to your Paper. Film Studio or Distributor, Year of Release. Government Publication Author if identified. Name of the Government. Name of Any Subdivisions. Number of the Congress, number of the Session if congressional document. Hearing on Attorney General Appointment Practices. Meeting or Event where Speech was Given. Musical Composition Name of Group or Artist. Year work was created. Institution that houses the work, City where it is located. Musee du Louvre, Paris. Title of Periodical day month year: Michael Roth and Benjamin Schwartz. San Francisco Chronicle 21 April late ed.: Date you accessed the site.

7: MLA Citation - MLA, APA, Chicago Guides - Library - Valencia College

What Is MLA Style? MLA style is a system for documenting sources in scholarly writing. For over half a century, it has been widely adopted for classroom instruction and used throughout the world by scholars, journal publishers, and academic and commercial presses.

Prior to learning how to write proper Footnote and Endnote citations, it is essential to first develop a stronger understanding of the MLA format. This specific type of documentation method is most commonly used in the English or other language literature, cultural studies, and gender studies and humanities fields. MLA guidelines dictate a number of parameters for in-text citation. For example, if the main paragraphs of your essay include reference to work written by someone other than yourself, you must acknowledge the quote or reference, in parenthesis, and follow this up with the surname of the original author and the page number indicating where the reference can be found in the originating source. Keep in mind that there are a number of things to consider when using the MLA format for sources that are not your own. More specifically, does the original material have two or more authors? Or, does the source come from a journal or a website? Or maybe even a block quote. Each of these things will necessitate a specific variation of the MLA style be followed. Each and every source utilized in your paper must appear in the bibliography – no exceptions. Adhere to these guidelines when creating your bibliography. The bibliography should always appear on a separate page. The page will be numbered, in sequential order, according to the pages contained in the essay. On occasion, if the list is shorter in length, it may be reasonable to include the bibliography on the final page of the essay. However, the general rule of thumb is to use a separate page. The title – “Bibliography” or “Works Cited” – should always be centered. Remember that a proper MLA heading should always appear in the centre of a page. There is no need to use bold or italic font or to underline the title. The entire bibliography should be double spaced or 1. Unlike other documentation styles, MLA format citations examples and bibliography texts should reference the authors surnames in alphabetical order. In cases where the surname of the author is not known, it is appropriate to list titles alphabetically. When more than one work, written by the same author, is to be cited, they should be alphabetized by title and the name of the author included in the initial entry. They are intended to refer readers to the exact pages of the works listed in the Works Cited, References, or Bibliography section. What is a footnote: They are used to offer commentary or cite references on a specific part of text in the body of the paper. For example, should an author wish to include an interesting fact or comment about one of the statements made in the paper, but that comment is seemingly irrelevant to the argument being presented, they may choose to include that information in a footnote. In this scenario, they would embed a symbol as a placeholder for the footnote at the end of the sentence being commented on and reprint the symbol and their commentary in the footnote. The main difference between Footnotes and Endnotes is that Footnotes are placed numerically at the foot of the very same page where direct references are made, while Endnotes are placed numerically at the end of the essay on a separate page entitled Endnotes or Notes. If you are still using a typewriter, a superscript number is typed half a space above the line after the last word of the citation, e. To type a Footnote citation, the same superscript number is put at the beginning of the Footnote at the bottom of the same page where the citation occurs. When mentioning a work for the first time, a full and complete Footnote or Endnote entry must be made. The process for including Footnotes or Endnotes is fairly consistent for most types of texts, however, what about including footnotes on virtual media like websites and blogs? How to Footnote a Website Technology is ever changing, and as such, the process for standardizing citation on websites has not yet been formalized. However, many thought leaders believe that the inclusion of website footnotes will not only lend credibility to the site, but also allow readers to utilize originating sources in order to gather additional information. Creating a website footnote is not difficult. Visit the website for which the footnote is being created. Locate if possible the name of the web page author. Write down the name of the website, the date the information was published online, the site URL and the date that you visited the page. List the recorded information in order, using commas. Only one sentence is used in a Footnote or Endnote citation, i. In a Bibliography, each citation consists of a minimum of three statements or

sentences, hence each entry requires a minimum of three periods, e. Wayne Miller, *King of Hearts*: Gibaldi does NOT recommend the use of these old-fashioned abbreviations: More commonly, author and page number or numbers are now used instead of *ibid*. For second or later mention of the same work with intervening entries, where previously *op*. Leave one space between the superscript number and the entry. Do not indent second and subsequent lines. Number Footnotes and Endnotes consecutively using a superscript, e. For Endnotes, you must use the same superscript number as in your text at the beginning of each Endnote in your Endnotes list. Start your list of Endnotes on a new page at the end of your essay. Reference from the Bible, Catechism, or Sacred Texts: An interesting reference was made to the picking of corn on the Sabbath.

8: General Format // Purdue Writing Lab

MLA style essay formatting: margins, font, line spacing, header, info block, title, indentation, block quote, Works Cited. For a transcript of this video, pl.

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