

Example of a Proper MLA Formatted Research Paper

MLA (Modern Language Association) style is most commonly used to write papers and cite sources within the liberal arts and humanities.

Your name, the professor's name, the course number, and the date of the paper are double-spaced in 12 point, Times New Roman font.

Dates in MLA are written in this order: day, month, and year.

Titles are centered and written in 12-point, Times New Roman font. **The title is NOT bolded, underlined, or italicized.**



1 " (all margins)



½"

Smith 1

Jane Smith

Professor John Jones

English 111

12 November 2014

Center Title of Essay

Begin your paragraph one double-spaced line below your centered title; the paragraph should begin with a ½" tabbed indent. The paper's heading goes in the upper-left corner of the first page only. All pages, including the first page, should include your last name followed by the page number in the upper right hand corner, ½" from the top. Double space everything including blocked quotes. DO NOT justify the right margin.

"Before 1820, the rural community accounted for eighty percent of consumption of farmers' goods" (Hurt 127). With the improvements in transportation, twenty-five percent of farmers' products were sold for commercial gain, and by 1825, farming "become a business rather than a way of life" (128).

MLA requires double-spacing throughout a document; **DO NOT** single-space any part of the document, including Works Cited page.

Type is 12 point, Times New Roman throughout paper.

All margins (except page #) are 1" on ALL sides.

In-text citations occur after the quote but before the period. The author's/authors' name/s go before the page number with no comma in between.

When using another quote from the same work, you need only list the page number.

CREATING A WORKS CITED PAGE

Begin your Works Cited page **on a separate page at the end of your research paper**. It should have the same one-inch margins and last name, page number header as the rest of your paper. **Double space all citations**, but do not skip spaces between entries.

The most recent edition of the MLA handbook recommends the inclusion of URLs in the Works Cited list.

According to MLA, “even an outdated URL can be useful, since it provides readers with information about where the work was once found. Moreover, in digital formats URLs may be clickable, connecting your reader directly to your sources.”

Entries are listed alphabetically by the author's last name (or, for entire edited collections, editor names). Author names are written last name first, followed by first name and middle initial. If no author, alphabetize by title.

The diagram shows a page layout for a Works Cited page. At the top right is the page number "Smith 10". The title "Works Cited" is centered. Three entries are listed, each with a hanging indent. Annotations in green boxes provide formatting rules: 1. Top left: "Label the page Works Cited, and center the words at the top of the page. Do NOT italicize the words Works Cited or put them in quotation marks." 2. Middle left: "Ignore A, An, and The when alphabetizing by title." 3. Bottom left: "Use italics (instead of underlining) for titles of larger works (books, magazines) and quotation marks for titles of shorter works (poems, articles)". 4. Middle right: "Indent the second and subsequent lines of citations by 0.5 inches to create a hanging indent." 5. Bottom right: "When citing journal articles, use the abbreviations for volume, issue number, and page number. Notice that everything following the italicized journal title should be separated by a comma." 6. Bottom right: "If you're citing an article or a publication that was originally issued in print form but that you retrieved from an online database, you should type the online database name in italics." Blue arrows point from the annotations to the corresponding parts of the citations.

Smith 10

Works Cited

Archer, David. *Global Warming: Understanding the Forecast*. John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 2012.

Gowdy, John. "Avoiding Self-organized Extinction: Toward a Co-evolutionary Economics of Sustainability." *International Journal of Sustainable Development and World Ecology*, vol. 14, no.2, Spring 2007, pp. 27-36.

An Inconvenient Truth. Directed by Davis Guggenheim, performance by Al Gore, Paramount, 2006.

Nordhaus, Bob D. "Global Warming Economics." *Science*, vol. 294, no. 5545, 2001, pp.1283-84. *Science Online*, <http://science.sciencemag.org/content/294/5545/1283>. Accessed 17 Aug. 2016.