

MLA Style Guide, 8th Edition: Formatting Your MLA Paper

<http://irsc.libguides.com/mla/paperformatting>

Typography:

MLA recommends using 12-point Times New Roman font or another readable typeface (e.g. *serif*).

Line Spacing and Margins:

Use double-spacing throughout the entire paper.

Leave 1 inch margins on the top, bottom, and each side.

Indent the first line of each paragraph half an inch from the left margin.

Quotes longer than 4 lines should be written as a block of text a half an inch from the left margin.

Heading and Title:

An MLA research paper does not need a title page, but your instructor may require one. If no instructions are given, follow the MLA guidelines below:

Type the following one inch from the top of the first page, flush with the left margin (double spacing throughout).

Your Name

Your Instructor's Name

Course Number or Name

Date

Center the title on the next line. Follow the rules for capitalization. Do not italicize, underline, or bold the title. An exception is when your title includes a title. **Example:** The Attitude toward Violence in *A Clockwork Orange*

Indent the next line and begin typing your text.

Include your last name and page numbers in the upper right-hand corner of every page. The page numbers will be one-half inch from the top and flush with the right margin. If your instructor prefers no page number on the first page, begin numbering from 2 on the second page.

Jane Doe

Professor Brown

Course Name

9 August 2016

Title of MLA Paper

The text of the paper begins after the title. Establish your topic, purpose, and the position you are taking in your paper. This is where you will state your thesis.

Be sure to use proper formatting for your in-text citations. The following sentence shows one way to cite a source from the Works Cited page. The earliest explorers of North America were Caucasians from Iceland (Riggs 11). Another method of citing the same source is to use a signal phrase containing the author's name. According to Riggs, the earliest North American explorers were from Iceland (11). The corresponding reference citation will be included in the Works Cited page.

If you are using a quotation longer than four lines of prose or three lines of verse, indent the entire quote one inch from the left margin. Omit quotation marks and use a colon before beginning the block quote. Black attempts to explain the rationale for criticism of Chopin's novel:

Readers at the time of the *Awakening* were aware of its challenge to middle-class mores that it was damned by critics for its immoral subject matter (but praised for its style) and banned in St. Louis, Mrs. Chopin's hometown. Outraged moralists wanted to make its supposedly wicked author suffer for her heroine's shocking sexuality and her suicide.
(106)

Continue your text. Begin a new page for your Works Cited list. The Works Cited entries will be alphabetized, ignoring the articles *a*, *an*, and *the*.