


# MLA Workshop

**The Speaking, Reading, and  
Writing Center**

College of the Mainland





# MLA (Modern Language Association) Style formatting is often used in various humanities disciplines.

## MLA requires:

- Document format
- In-text citations
- The Works Cited (a list of all sources used in the paper)

# Guidelines for MLA formatting style

- **Always follow instructor guidelines**

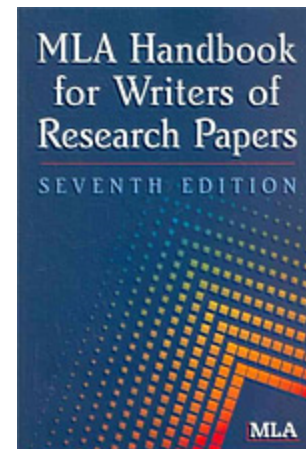
**An MLA style paper should:**

- Be typed on white 8.5" x 11" paper
- Double-spaced
- Use 12 pt. Times New Roman (or similar) font
- Leave only one space after punctuation
- Margins of 1 inch on all sides
- Indent the first line of paragraphs one half-inch

# More guidelines for MLA formatting

## An MLA Style Paper should also:

- Have a header with page numbers located in the upper right-hand corner
- Use italics for titles

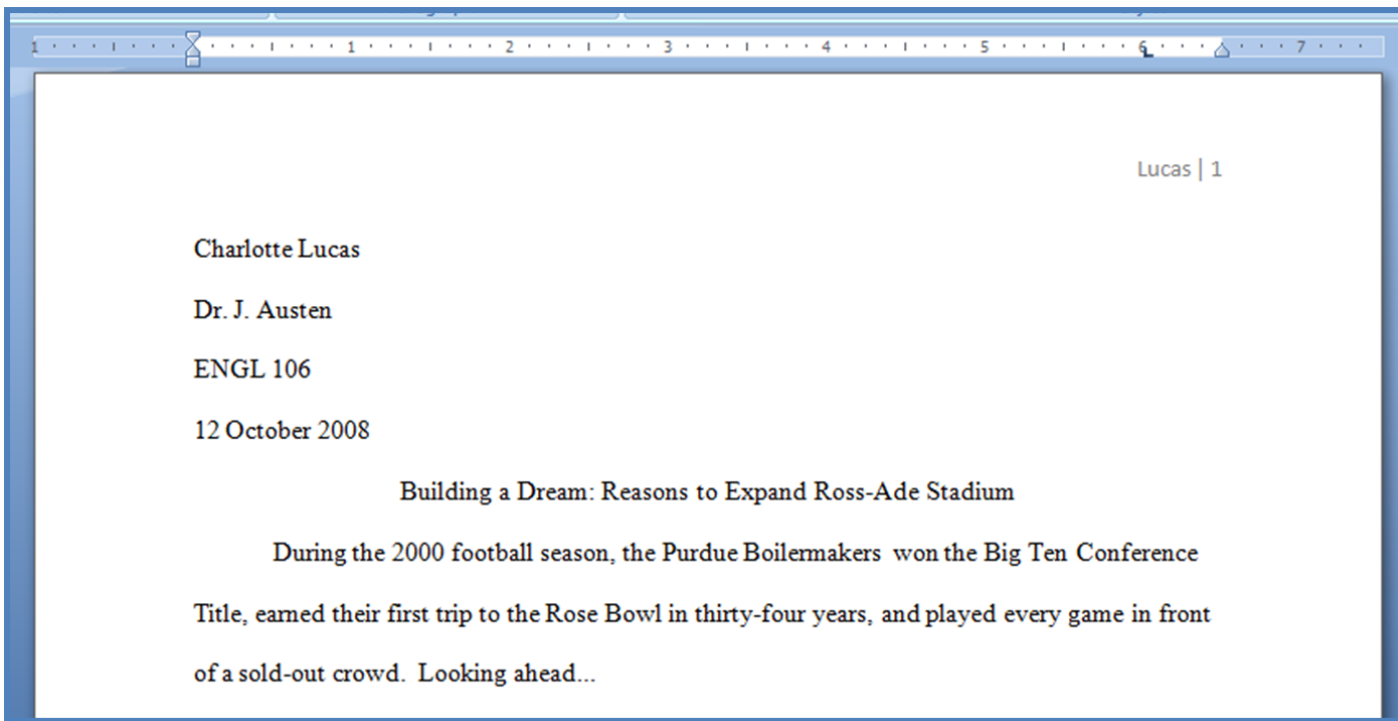


# Formatting the first page

The first page of an *MLA Style* paper will:

- Have no title page
- Double space everything
- List your name, your instructor's name, the course, and date in the upper left-hand corner
- Center the paper title (use standard caps but no underlining, italics, quote marks, or bold typeface)
- Create a header in the upper right corner at half inch from the top and one inch from the right of the page (list your last name and page number here)

# Sample page 1



# In-text citations for MLA

**Within the text MLA uses parenthetical citations:**

- The format of parenthetical citations depends on the medium (Print, Web, DVD, etc.)
- Parenthetical citations also depend on the source's entry in the Works Cited page
- The signal word in the text is the first thing in the corresponding Works Cited entry

# Author-page style (in text)

## **Example:**

*Wordsworth stated that Romantic poetry was marked by a “spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings” (263).*

*Romantic poetry is characterized by the “spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings” (Wordsworth 263).*

*Wordsworth extensively explored the role of emotion in the creative process (263).*

## **Corresponding Works Cited entry:**

*Wordsworth, William. Lyrical Ballads. London: Oxford UP, 1967. Print.*



# Print source with an author

If the essay provides a signal word or phrase—usually the author’s last name—the citation does not need to also include that information.

*Example:*

*Humans have been described by Kenneth Burke as “symbol using animals” (3). VS.*

*Humans have been described as “symbol-using animals” (Burke 3).*

# Print source with no author

## To cite (in-text) a work with no known author:

*We see so many global warming hotspots in North America likely because this region has “more readily accessible climatic data and more comprehensive programs to monitor and study environmental change...” (“Impact of Global Warming” 6).*

## Corresponding Works Cited Entry:

*“The Impact of Global Warming in North America.” Global Warming: Early Signs. 1999. Web. 23 Mar. 2009.*

# Citing sources from the Internet

## ***In-text Example:***

*One online film critic has argued that Fitzcarraldo is "...a beautiful and terrifying critique of obsession and colonialism" (Garcia, "Herzog: a Life").*

## ***Corresponding Works Cited Entry:***

*Garcia, Elizabeth. "Herzog: a Life." Online Film Critics Corner. The Film School of New Hampshire, 2 May 2002. Web. 8 Jan. 2009.*

# Works Cited sample page

Angeli 10

## Works Cited

- Allen, R.L. *The American Farm Book; or Compend of American Agriculture; Being a Practical Treatise on Soils, Manures, Draining, Irrigation, Grasses, Grain, Roots, Fruits, Cotton, Tobacco, Sugar Cane, Rice, and Every Staple Product of the United States with the Best Methods of Planting, Cultivating, and Preparation for Market.* New York: Saxton, 1849. Print.
- Baker, Gladys L., Wayne D. Rasmussen, Vivian Wisser, and Jane M. Porter. *Century of Service: The First 100 Years of the United States Department of Agriculture.*
- Danhof, Clarence H. *Change in Agriculture: The Northern United States, 1820-1870.* Cambridge: Harvard UP, 1969. Print.
- Demaree, Albert Lowther. *The American Agricultural Press 1819-1860.* New York: Columbia UP, 1941. Print.
- Drown, William and Solomon Drown. *Compendium of Agriculture or the Farmer's Guide, in the Most Essential Parts of Husbandry and Gardening; Compiled from the Best American and European Publications, and the Unwritten Opinions of Experienced Cultivators.* Providence: Field, 1824. Print.
- "Historical Census Browser." *University of Virginia Library.* 2007. Web. 6 Dec. 2008.

# Basic format for Works Cited

**Lastname, Firstname. Title of Book. Place of Publication:  
Publisher, Year of Publication. Medium of Publication.**

*Examples:*

*Gillespie, Paula, and Neal Lerner. The Allyn and Bacon Guide to  
Peer Tutoring. Boston: Allyn, 2000. Print.*

*Gleick, James. Chaos: Making a New Science. New York:  
Penguin, 1987. Print.*

*Palmer, William J. Dickens and New Historicism. New York: St.  
Martin's, 1997. Print.*

*---. The Films of the Eighties: A Social History. Carbondale: Southern  
Illinois UP, 1993. Print.*

# Works Cited for periodicals

## Article in a Magazine Format

Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Periodical* Day Month Year: pages. Medium of publication.

*Example:*

Buchman, Dana. "A Special Education." *Good Housekeeping* Mar. 2006: 143-8. Print.

## Article in Scholarly Journal Format

Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Journal* Volume. Issue (Year): pages. Medium of publication.

*Example:*

Duvall, John N. "The (Super)Marketplace of Images: Television as Unmediated Mediation in DeLillo's *White Noise*." *Arizona Quarterly* 50.3 (1994): 127- 53. Print.

# Citing Web sources

**Editor, author, or compiler name (if available)**

“Article Name.” Name of Site. Version number. Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site (sponsor or publisher). Date of last update. Medium of publication. Date of access.

*Example:*

*Bernstein, Mark. “10 Tips on Writing the Living Web.” A List Apart: For People Who Make Websites. A List Apart Mag., 16 Aug. 2002. Web. 4 May 2009.*



# The End

This PowerPoint adapted from the Purdue Owl MLA PowerPoint available at: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>