

MLA Formatting

Modern Language Association

I. Basic formatting:

- Typed on standard-sized paper – 8.5x11 inches
- Double space
- 1-inch margins on ALL sides
- Use a header that numbers all of your pages consecutively – in the upper right hand corner, one-half inch from the top of the page and flush with the right margin. The header includes your last name and the page number with no punctuation. Example: Smith 1
- Underline or italicize all titles mentioned in your paper if they are long or require emphasis
- Do NOT make a title page – unless your professor requests it
- Center your title on the line below the header; and begin your paper immediately below the title.
- Create a Works Cited page separate from the rest of your paper and do not underline or italicize the words Works Cited
- Double space each entry and don't skip any spaces between the entries.

II. Parenthetical (In-Text) Citations –

- Author-Page: author's last name and the page number(s) from which you got the quotation.
 - You might mention the author's name directly in the sentence but you must place the page numbers that the end of the sentence in parentheses.
 - The parentheses should go after the quotation mark.
 - Example:
 - Romantic poetry is characterized by the “spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings” (Wordsworth 263).
 - Wordsworth stated that Romantic poetry was marked by a “spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings” (263).
 - Do not put the parentheses after the period
 - No commas between the name and page

III. Works Cited Page –

- At the end of the essay; on a separate page from the text of your essay
- Under the label Works Cited, which should be centered at the top of the page
- Hanging Indents: flush the first line of each entry to the left and every subsequent line will be indented one-half inch.
- Double space between each entry and no skipping spaces between entries (ie. one double space is enough)
- To underline is to italicize and vice versa – keep it consistent
- Alphabetize by the first word in each entry (the author's last name)
- Use “and” instead of “&” with more than one author.

SAMPLES

BOOK

Last name of author, First name of author. Title of Book Used. Place of

Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication.

JOURNAL ARTICLE

Cypher, Brian. "Competitive interactions between coyotes and

San Joaquin kit foxes." Journal of Mammalogy 79 (1998): 204-214.

WEBSITE

California Department of Fish and Game (2006). San Joaquin Kit Fox. 2 April

2006 <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/whdab/html/ml148.html>

Consult:

- The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (5th edition)
- www.mla.org