

Modern Language Association

A Brief Overview

What is “MLA”?

- ✦ The “Modern Language Association”
- ✦ MLA style for documentation is widely used in the humanities, especially in writing on language and literature
- ✦ Almost every major College and University uses MLA Formatting (along with English teachers @ DMA)

What does MLA Regulate?

- ✦ Document Format
- ✦ In-Text Citations
- ✦ Works Cited Page (a list of all sources used in the paper)

General Guidelines

- ✦ Only print on one side of the paper
- ✦ Double-space everything; no more, no less
 - ✦ No extra space between paragraphs (double check...write down the instructions I'm about to show you!)
- ✦ Use 12 pt. Times New Roman font

General Guidelines (cont'd)

- ✦ Set all margins to 1" on all sides
- ✦ Indent the first line of paragraphs ONE TAB
- ✦ Use Italics with Titles of Books
- ✦ Page Number 1/2" from top right of every page;
 - ✦ Last Name Page #

Setting up the First Page

1" MARGINS ON ALL SIDES

Your Name

Heading - top of every page
1/2" margin from top
Last Name Page #

Instructor Name
(Ms. Carson)

Class
(CP World Literature or Honors World Literature)

Student 1

Ima Student

Ms. Carson

World Literature CP

8 March 2013

Original Title (NOT name of assignment)

Start introduction paragraph here|

Date
Day Month Year

Title
Centered
No bold or underline

Notice ALL lines double-spaced EVENLY

In-Text Citations

- ✦ **An “In-Text Citation” a brief mention in the text of your paper (usually at the end of a sentence) that leads the reader to the complete information about that reference (found in the “Works Cited Page”)**
- ✦ **MLA Formatting uses the Author-Page Style for In-Text Citations**
 - ✦ **(Beah 45)**

In-Text Citations

- ✦ Examples:

- ✦ If you mention the author in the sentence:

Lengyel stated that she saw “a corpse hanging from the gallows” (145).

- ✦ If you DO NOT mention the author in the sentence:

“There was a corpse hanging from the gallows” (Lengyel 145).

- ✦ **Lengyel stated that there was a “corpse hanging from the gallows” (145).**

Adding Words or Information in a Quote

- ✦ If you add a word or words in a quotation, you should put brackets around the words to indicate that they are not part of the original text.
- ✦ In-text Example for Adding Words:
 - ✦ Jan Harold Brunvand, in an essay on urban legends, states: "some individuals [who retell urban legends] make a point of learning every rumor or tale" (78).

Omitting Words From Quotes

- If you omit a word or words from a quotation, you should indicate the deleted word or words by using ellipsis marks, which are three periods (...) preceded and followed by a space. Please note that brackets are not needed around ellipses unless adding brackets would clarify your use of ellipses. This is illustrated in the second example on this slide.

In-text example for Omitting Words:

In an essay on urban legends, Jan Harold Brunvand notes that "some individuals make a point of learning every recent rumor or tale . . . and in a short time a lively exchange of details occurs" (78).

Works Cited Page

- ✦ **LAST PAGE** of your paper
- ✦ **Stands alone; even if paper ended mid page**
- ✦ **Alphabetical Order**
- ✦ **Double-Spaced Evenly Throughout**
- ✦ **First line of every source stays at 1" margin**
- ✦ **Every line after first gets 1 tab**

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Works Cited

- Adorno, Theodor. "Extracts from *Minima Moralia: Reflections from Damaged Life*." *Continental Aesthetics Reader*. Ed. Clive Cazeaux. Florence, KY: Routledge, 2000. 234-256. Print.
- Bernard L., et al. "Dramatism as Ontology or Epistemology: A Symposium." *Communication Quarterly* 33(1985): 17-33. Print.
- Burke, Kenneth. *Attitudes Toward History*. 3rd ed. Berkeley: California UP, 1984. Print.
- . "Communication and the Human Condition." *Communication* 1(1974): 135-52. Print.
- . "Dramatism and Logology." *Communication Quarterly* 33(1985): 89-93. Print.
- de Man, Paul. *Aesthetic Ideology: Theory and History of Literature*. Ed. Andrzej Warminski. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1996. Print.
- Tell, David. "Burke's Encounter with Ransom: Rhetoric and Epistemology in "Four Master Tropes." *Rhetoric Society Quarterly* 34(2004): 33-54. Print.
- Thames, Richard. "The Gordian Knot: Untangling the *Motivorum*." 3 May 2008. Web. 6 July 2009.

Reminders:

- No contractions! WRITE THEM OUT UNLESS THEY ARE IN A QUOTE!
- No first person! DO NOT SAY “I” OR “MY”
- SHOW: don’t tell! FOR EXAMPLE: *DO NOT SAY “THESE QUOTES RELATE TO MY CLAIM BECAUSE...”*
- MLA (font of page number is USUALLY wrong and needs to be changed!

Reminders (continued)

- Title - original title relating to topic, and all words capitalized -- no bold or underline
- Spacing reminder
- If you say 'Beah says' or 'Lengyel says' you need a comma after and start with a capital!
- Use a COLON (:) after your set up if it states information contained in your quote! FOR EXAMPLE:
Beah remembers the time when he had to slit an innocent man's throat: "quote goes here" (45).