

Style Sheet MLA Format for Writing Essays

Using this format is an issue of professionalism. The Modern Language Association (MLA) has established a standard format for essay-writing. As you conduct research and present your ideas in writing you are entering into a community of scholars and writers. It is expected that you follow the conventions of this community. The MLA style is the conventional style for academic work in the humanities. Always check with your instructor to verify the required format for your class.

This handout provides a brief guide to MLA basics. For more in-depth explanations, consult the following resources in addition to classroom materials provided by your instructor:

-[MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers](#), 7th Edition

-Purdue OWL: MLA Formatting and Style Guide (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>)

MLA Format

Your name, the course number, the professor's name, 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.

Elizabeth L. Angeli
Professor Patricia Sullivan
English 624
14 December 2008

Green text boxes contain explanations of MLA style guidelines.

Blue boxes contain directions for writing and citing in MLA style.

Angeli 1
Page numbers begin on and with page 1. Type your name next to the page number so that it appears on every page.

Toward a Recovery of Nineteenth Century Farming Handbooks

While researching texts written about nineteenth century farming, I found a few authors who published books about the literature of nineteenth century farming, particularly agricultural journals, newspapers, pamphlets, and brochures. These authors often placed the farming literature they were studying into an historical context by discussing the important events in agriculture of the year in which the literature was

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

In Text Citations

Since you will already have full citations for your references listed on your "Works Cited" page, you can just briefly identify which source an idea came from in the text of your paper. Include the author's last name and page number (for print sources) in parenthesis wherever you incorporate another's words, facts, or ideas.

Example 1: Rationalistic supernaturalism relates to the first of the four stages of doubt (Watson 519).

Example 2: Watson clearly explains this idea (519).

The second example names the author in the sentence so only the page number is listed in the parenthesis. Both of these in text citation point the reader to the full citation on the Works Cited page. The full citation would be as follows:

Watson, Peter. *Ideas: a History of Thought and Invention, from Fire to Freud*. New York: Harper, 2005. Print.

Works Cited List

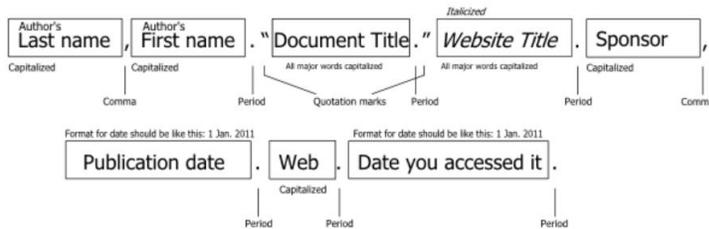
At the end of your essay you will list all the sources you cited in the text. List them in alphabetical order.

As you find resources for your essay keep track of the following information:

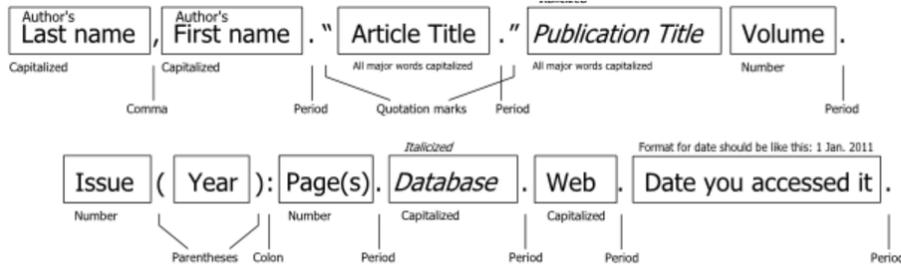
1. Author's Name (If no author name(s) appear, begin with the title)
2. Title ("quotations" for a short title like an article, *italics* for a longer title)
3. Publication Information – place of publication, publisher or sponsor, date of publication
4. Medium (common examples: print, web, personal interview)

Below are some templates for common examples students use in writing academic essays. Consult the resources listed on the other side for more details on other sources.

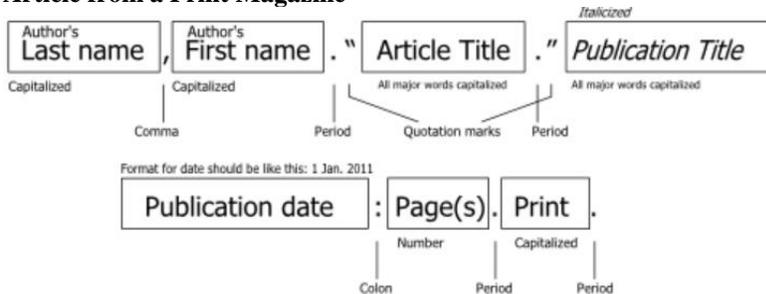
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