

EL CAPITAN HIGH SCHOOL
MLA STYLE FOR RESEARCH PAPERS

Based on Current MLA Standards (Sixth Edition, 2003)

Be sure and check with your teacher to see if you should be using this standard format.
 Some teachers make changes that you will need to take into consideration. Always check!

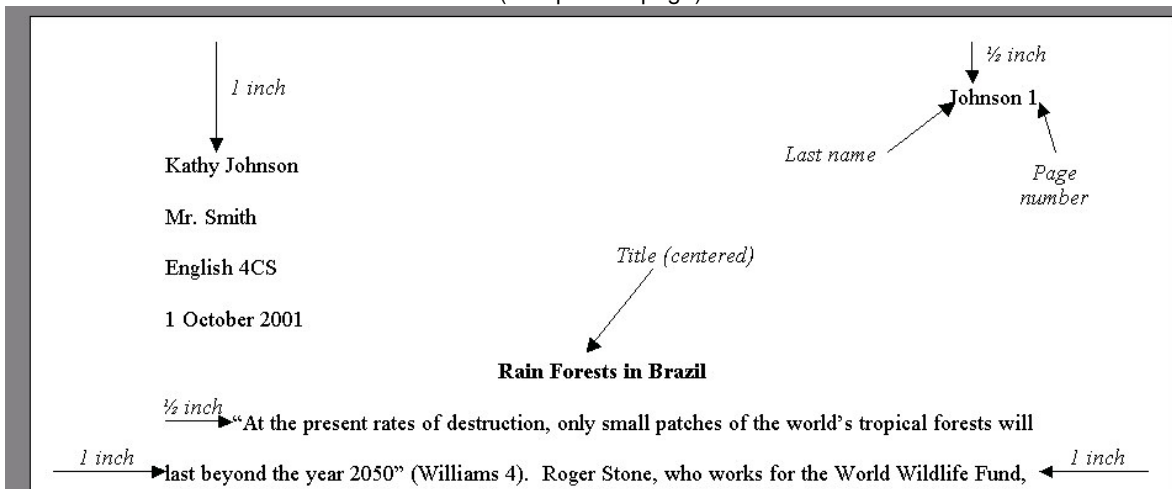
Basic Paper Format

√	General Guidelines	Hints When Using Microsoft Word
	Type your paper using a standard 12 pt font such as Times New Roman or Arial.	Go to Format → Font
	Use 1” margins on all sides of your paper (top, bottom, left, and right).	Go to File → Page Setup
	Double-space your entire paper. Do <u>not</u> use single spacing or add extra spaces between lines or paragraphs, unless instructed to by your teacher.	Go to Format → Paragraph and change the Line Spacing to Double
	Create a running header in the upper right-hand corner of each page, $\frac{1}{2}$ ” from the top, with your last name and the page number.	Go to View → Header and Footer , select right align , type your last name followed by a space , and then click on Insert Page Number
	Always proofread and spell check your work.	Go to Tools → Spelling and Grammar...
	Always “Preview” your report before printing.	Go to File → Print Preview

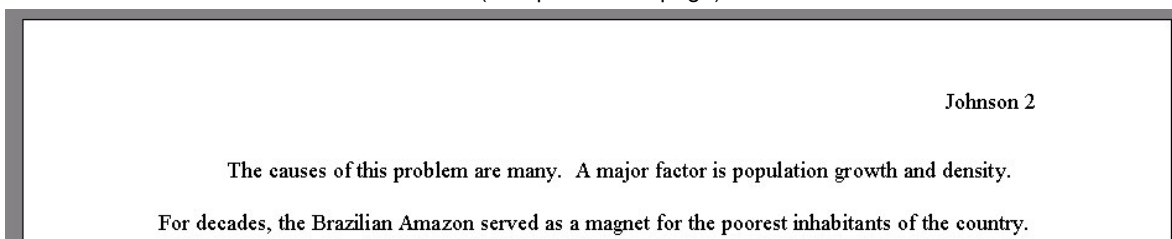
Formatting the First Page of Your Paper

√	First Page Guidelines
	Do not make a title page unless your teacher requests one, and then follow the format specified by your teacher.
	Heading: In the top left corner of the first page, 1” from the top, list each of the following items on a separate line: your name , your teacher’s name , your class , and the date (use the European date month year format).
	Center the title on the next line below the header—do not underline, capitalize, or put it in quotation marks.
	Begin your paper on the next line below the title. Make sure to indent the first line of each new paragraph by $\frac{1}{2}$ ” using the Tab key.

(Sample first page)



(Sample second page)

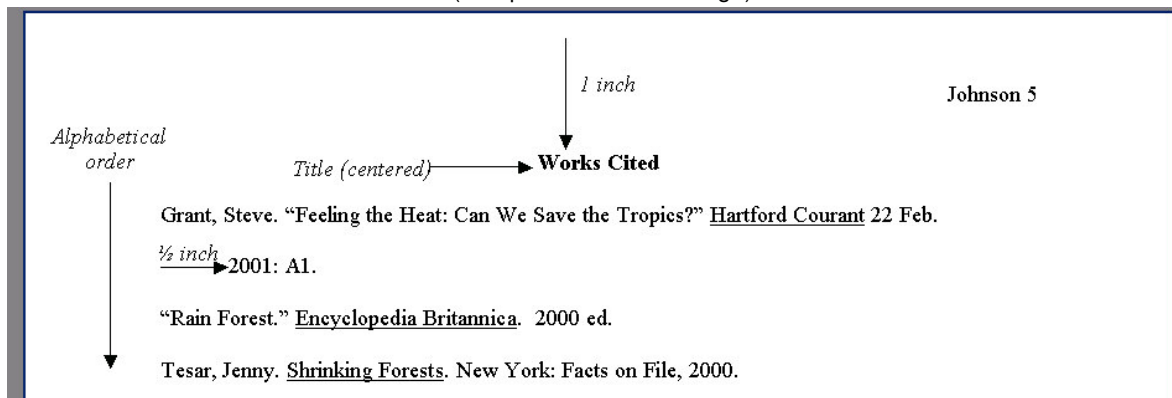


Formatting the Works Cited Page

It is necessary to **give credit to any source(s)** that you have used when presenting information such as in a speech, a research paper, or a poster—plagiarism is an offense and can cost you credit! Therefore, with each paper you write, you will need to prepare a list of **Works Cited** (or a **bibliography**). This is the only place where a reader can locate complete information about the sources cited in your paper, and for this reason, you must be thorough and accurate.

√	Works Cited Page Formatting Guidelines
	Begin your works cited list on a new page after the body of the essay.
	Like the rest of your essay, double space your entire Works Cited page.
	Center the title, Works Cited (with no quotation marks or underlining), 1" from the top of the page.
	Start your first entry on the next line under your title. Do not add extra spaces after the title or between entries.
	Use hanging indentation —begin the first line of each entry all the way to the left of the page, and if the entry is longer than than one line, indent each subsequent line of the entry by $\frac{1}{2}$ " using the Tab key.
	List entries in alphabetical order by the first word in each entry (usually the last name of the author). NOTE: When alphabetizing by book or article titles, do not count <i>A</i> , <i>An</i> , or <i>The</i> as the first word of a title (e.g. you would write out "The Real Vaquero" like this, but alphabetize it under R for Real).

(Sample Works Cited Page)



Formatting Works Cited Entries

Once you have located a useful source such as a book or article, record all necessary information about the source using the proper MLA format. Use the examples on the pages that follow as a guide.

√	Works Cited Entries Formatting Guidelines
	Sources may vary in the publication information provided. In other words, not all sources will have every piece of information that you are looking for. If you are unable to locate some information on a source, just cite what is available.
	Check your punctuation and spacing against the examples—look out for all periods, commas, and colons.
	Use the inverted form of an author's name (Last Name, First Name) when it is the first part of an entry.
	Underline (or place in <i>italics</i>) all titles of larger works such as books, periodicals and films. <u>Underlining</u> and <i>italics</i> are equivalent; choose one style and use it consistently throughout your paper.
	Use quotation marks to indicate " titles of shorter works " that appear in larger works, for example, a "magazine article" from a magazine or a "poem" from a book of poetry.
	If more than one city of publication is given, list only the first. For cities outside the United States, add a country abbreviation.
	When possible, use the shortened form of the publisher's name - Random instead of Random House or Random House, Inc.
	Use the European format for date listing —giving the date, month and year in the form: 2 Oct. 1999. Use three-letter abbreviations of the months (e.g. Jan., Feb., Mar.)
	Do not use " p. " or other page notation, as numbers are just understood to be page numbers.
	For Internet URL addresses, use the complete address (for example, starting with http) enclosed in angle brackets < and >. If a URL is long and takes up more than one line, break it only after a slash.
	Indent 2 nd line and additional lines

- ❖ **PLEASE NOTE:** While this handout includes examples of how to cite the most common types of sources, it is not an exhaustive list. Keep in mind that there are specific formats for all different types of sources from translated books and multivolume works to editorials and reviews. To find the format for sources not included in this handout, refer to the [MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers](#), 6th ed. or online guides such as the Purdue University Online Writing Lab website: <http://owl.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_mla.html>.

Books:

Author's Name(s). Title of Book. City of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication.

→ indent 2nd line

Examples:

A) Books with a Single Author

Marrin, Albert. Aztecs and Spaniards. New York: Antheneum, 1986.

B) Books with Two or More Authors – List names in the order they appear on the title page. Invert only the name of the first author.

Cargill, Oscar, William Charval, and Donald Walsh. The Importance of Clear Writing. New York: Harcourt, 1999.

C) Book with an Editor – Follow the name with ", ed.".

Hall, Donald, ed. American Literary Criticism. New York: Oxford UP, 1998.

D) Books with No Author or Editor Given – Start the entry with the title of the book. When alphabetizing the entry, ignore any initial *A*, *An*, or *The*. For in-text citations, use a shortened version of the title.

Encyclopedia of Photography. New York: Crown, 1988.

Pieces or Articles in Books:

Author's Name(s). "Title of Piece or Article." Title of Book. Ed. Editor. City of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication. Page Number(s).

Examples:

E) Work (e.g. Essay or Poem) in an Anthology

Lazard, Naomi. "In Answer to your Query." The Norton Book of Light Verse. Ed. Russell Baker. New York: Norton, 1986. 52-53.

F) Occupational Guidance

"Dog Trainer." Occupational Guidance. Vol. 1 Unit 5. Minneapolis: Finney, 1998.

G) Encyclopedia Article, Signed and Unsigned – For major encyclopedias (i.e. World Book, Britannica, and Encyclopedia Americana), you may leave off the editor, volume and page numbers. For publication information, simply list the edition and year of publication.

Perkins, Kenneth. "Algeria." The World Book Encyclopedia. 2003 ed.

"New York Stock Exchange." Encyclopedia Americana. 1998 ed.

Articles in Periodicals:

Author's Name(s). "Title of Article." Title of Periodical Date: Page Number(s).

→ indent 2nd line

Examples:

H) Magazine Article, Signed and Unsigned

Mannix, Margaret. "Avoid These Card Tricks." Reader's Digest Oct. 1999: 118-121.

"Young, Rich and Miserable." Newsweek 27 Sep. 1999: 10.

I) Newspaper Article, Signed and Unsigned – Give the section and page number, if known.

Simison, Robert. "Making Digital Decisions." Wall Street Journal 24 Sep. 1999: B1+.

"Stronger Lemon Law Signed." San Diego Union 24 Sep. 1999: A3.

Miscellaneous Sources:

For exact guidelines on these miscellaneous sources and any other sources not included in this handout, refer to the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 6th ed. or the Purdue University Online Writing Lab website: <http://owl.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_mla.html>.

Examples:

J) Speech

O'Connor, Sandra Day. Commencement Speech. Colorado College, Colorado Springs. 24 May 1998.

K) Class Lecture

Howard, Pam. Lecture. El Capitan High School, Lakeside. 23 Sept. 2003.

L) Personal Interview (that you conducted)

Clinton, Hillary. Personal interview. 12 September 1999.

M) Television or Radio Program

"The First Americans." NBC News Special. By Craig Fisher. Narr. Hugh Downs. KNSD, San Diego. 21 March 1998.

N) Music CD

Springsteen, Bruce. The River. Columbia, 1982.

O) Videocassette or DVD

Alzheimer's Disease. Videocassette. American Institute of Nursing, 1995

Citing Electronic (Online) Resources:

Steps to Create Internet Works Citation: Online citations for electronic text need to include as many of the following items as possible or as appropriate. This list has been shortened; see MLA book or Internet site (<http://www.mla.org/>) for extended info:

- 1) Name of author, editor (if given) [period]
- 2) "Title" of the article, material, or document (in quotation marks) [period before the final quotation mark].
If using a subscription service, go to #3, if not, go to #4 in this list.
- 3) Publication information for print version. **Title** of magazine, newspaper, or journal **underlined** [no punctuation] then date of publication: [colon] page numbers (if given). [period] **Now, if you are in a subscription service, skip to #6 in this list.**
- 4) **Title** of the database, periodical, professional or personal site (**underlined**—NOT Google, Yahoo, or other search engines!) [period]
- 5) Date of electronic publication, if given (usually bottom of first page) [Date, written: day Month year, i.e., 21 Feb. 2006] [period]
- 6) If work is from a subscription service (like Electric Library, ProQuest, CQ Researcher), give name of service [period]. Library that subscribes [comma], and city where located [period].
- 7) Date of access (when **you** accessed the material) [no period]
- 8) Electronic address, of URL, of the source in <angle brackets> **OR** the URL of the service's main page (if known) [no period].

Citing Sources Within the Text of Your Paper

As you write your research paper, you will select information to include from your various sources. Whenever you “borrow” from your sources, you must give them proper credit. You must provide documentation if you 1) use a quotation, text that is quoted word for word and enclosed in quotation marks; 2) include an idea or theory that belongs to someone else, even if you write about it in your own words; or 3) refer to a specific fact, statistic, or detail, again, even if you write about it in your own words. The way that you give credit to your sources is by using **parenthetical documentation**. Below are some general guidelines on and examples of how to cite sources in your essay using parenthetical documentation.

- Give credit to a source at the **end of a sentence**, but **before the period**. List the **author’s last name** and relevant **page number(s)** in parenthesis. Separate the name and page numbers with a **space** and **no comma**.
- Remember that there is **no "p."** or other page notation, as numbers are just understood to be page numbers.
- If you are providing citation for a quotation, place the parenthetical documentation **after the last quotation mark**, but before the final period.
- If there is no author provided, use instead the **first word of the title**, excluding *A*, *An*, or *The*.

Examples: “The introduction of the microcomputer to America’s high schools has greatly changed the way students view the research process” (Jones 12-13). School libraries on average have 1 computer for every 120 students (Wu and Li 7). Just ten years ago, the statistic was 1 for every 300 (Technology 37).

- As an alternative, you can use the author's name in a sentence and then place only the page number(s) in parenthesis.

Examples: Jones states that the “introduction of the microcomputer to America’s high schools has greatly changed the way students view the research process” (12-13). In their research, Wu and Li found that school libraries on average have 1 computer for every 120 students (7). According to Technology in the Classroom, the statistic was 1 for every 300 just ten years ago (37).

- ❖ **Exception:** Longer quotations (**4 lines or longer**) are set off and thus do not require the use of quotation marks. Starting on a new line, they are indented **ten spaces** from **both** margins. Parenthetical documentation for long quotations is included at the very end of the quotation, one space **after the period**.

PRACTICE FORM

General Web Sites:

Author's name(s). "Title of Document or Article." Name of Internet Site underlined. Date of Electronic Publication or Last Revision. Date Material Accessed <URL of Source>.

Example:

Benoist, Michael. "Dream Job." National Geographic Adventure. 2006. 21 Feb 2006. <http://nationalgeographic.com/adventure/0602/whats_newpaul_walker.html>.

Fill in the blank for an Internet Citation from General Website: (Not a subscription service)

<input type="text"/>	,	<input type="text"/>	.	“	<input type="text"/>	”
Last name of Author, if given,		First name.			Title of Article with All Important Words Capitalized.	
<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	.	<input type="text"/>	.	
Title of Database or Professional site (<u>underlined</u>)		Date of Electronic publication.		Date of access.		
		<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>		
		<	<input type="text"/>	>	.	
		<URL address of your informational site>				

Subscription Service: (like Electric Library, ProQuest, CQ Researcher)

Author's Name(s). "Title of Article." Name of Periodical (magazine or newspaper underlined). Date of Publication: Page numbers (if given). Name of Subscription Service. Name of Library where you accessed this information, City where library is located. Date of access <URL of source>.

Example:

Mariotti, Jay. "Figure on Sasha Being Set for Spotlight." Chicago Sun Times 21 Feb 2006: 103. ProQuest. El Capitan High School Library, Lakeside, CA. 22 Feb 2006 <<http://proquest.umi.com>>.

Fill in the blank for a Subscription Citation:

<input type="text"/>	,	<input type="text"/>	.	“	<input type="text"/>	”
Last name of Author, if given,		First name.			Title of Article with All Important Words Capitalized.	
<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	:	<input type="text"/>	.	
Name of Periodical (<u>underlined</u>)		Date of Publication:		Page numbers.		
<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	,	<input type="text"/>	.	
Name of Subscription Service		El Capitan High School Library		Lakeside, CA		
		Name of Library where you accessed info,		City, State where library is located		
<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	.	
Date of access		<URL address of your informational site>				