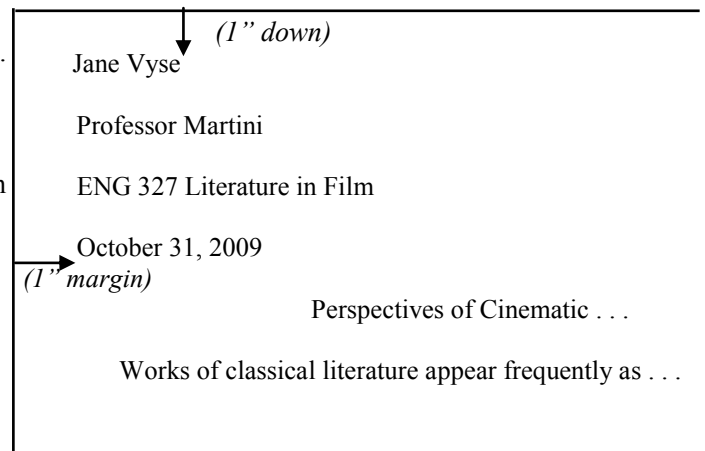# Guide to the
MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers

This guide describes the format recommended by the Modern Language Association (MLA) for preparing a research paper. Examples of references are listed on the reverse side. For questions not answered by this guide, consult the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (7th ed.) at the Reference Desk.

BASIC FORMAT:
- Use standard-sized paper, 8 ½ x 11 inches.
- All margins (top, bottom, and sides) should be one inch wide.
- Type the paper double-spaced.
- Do not justify the right margin.
- Indent the first line of each paragraph five spaces.
- There is no separate title page. On the first page, beginning in the upper left corner, at the margin and one inch from the top of the page, type the following information double-spaced.
  - Your name
  - Your professor's name
  - Course title and number
  - Date
  - Center the Title, use upper and lower case letters.
  - Double space, then begin the text of the paper.

Jane Vyse *(1" down)*

Professor Martini

ENG 327 Literature in Film

October 31, 2009
(1" margin)

Perspectives of Cinematic . . .

Works of classical literature appear frequently as . . .

- **Number each page** in the upper right corner, ½ inch from the top of the page and flush with the right margin. Include your last name before each page number.
  - *Example:* Smith 2

- **Italicize** titles of books, plays, Web sites, online databases, films, magazines, journals, etc.
  - *Example:* Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* will be presented at the College Theater in October.

- **Use quotation marks** for titles of works published within a larger work: titles of essays, poems, an article in a journal, a short story in a collection, a chapter in a book, a Web page on a larger Web site, etc.
  - *Example:* The importance of provenance is addressed in Pfeiffer's essay "Masterpieces of Art and Prior Ownership."

CITING ANOTHER PERSON'S IDEAS OR WORK:
- Give credit for ideas you have paraphrased by including the author's last name and page number from the original source in parentheses.
  - *Example:* Bradford's research indicates that the Elizabethan era was a fashion-conscious age, and clothing indicative of one's wealth (153).

-or-
- Place quotation marks around words and sentences quoted directly. Include the author's last name and page number in parentheses.
  - *Example:* One historian states that the "Elizabethan era was a highly fashion-conscious age, and clothing was a primary indicator of wealth" (Bradford 153).

WORKS CITED (EXAMPLES ON BACK)
In MLA style, the **Works Cited** list appears at the end of your paper, beginning with a new page which is double-spaced. Center the title, Works Cited, one inch from the top of the page. Citations are arranged alphabetically, by author, or by title if there is no author. The first line of each citation begins at the left margin and all additional lines of the citation are indented five spaces or 1/2 inch. Double space each entry and double space between entries. *(To save space, examples on the next page are not double-spaced. Your list should be double-spaced.)* The Works Cited list includes only those works you have actually cited in the text of your paper. If you read additional sources when conducting your research but do not make reference to them in the text of your paper, do not include them.

EXAMPLES OF WORKS CITED *(Examples on this page are not double-spaced. Your list should be double-spaced.)*

MAJOR WORKS: Books, Chapters in Edited Books, Entry in an Encyclopedia, Film or DVD
        One Author
Roberts, Jane. *The Mind and the Film.* Rev. Ed. New York: Harper, 2001. Print.
        Two or Three Authors
Maddux, Rachel, Stirling Silliphant, and Neil D. Isaacs. *Fiction into Film.* Knoxville: U of Tennessee P, 1970. Print.
        More than Three Authors: Use et al. or list all names in full in the same order as in the original work.
Mead, Sophia, et al. *Classics of the Silver Screen.* New York: Columbia UP, 1990. Print.
        Editor
Young, Thomas Daniel, ed. *The New Criticism and After.* Charlottesville: UP of Virginia, 1976. Print.
        Unknown author
Encyclopedia of Photography. 4th ed., 2 vols. New York: Crown, 1984. Print.
        Work in an anthology or collection
Bahr, Donald. "Dream Songs." *Handbook of Native American Literature.* Ed. Andrew Wiget. New York: Garland, 1996.
        119-123. Print.
        Entry in an encyclopedia or dictionary
"Ethnomusicology." *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians*. 2nd ed. London: Macmillan, 2001. Print.

PERIODICAL ARTICLES
        Journal
Marshall, Robert L. "Film as Musicology: Amadeus." *Musical Quarterly* 81.2 (1997): 173-9. Print.
        Magazine
Gray, Paul. "Paradise Found." *Time* 19 Jan. 1998: 62-68. Print.
        Newspaper
Marks, Peter. "Great Literature. Period Costumes. That Is So Cool." *New York Times* 20 June 1999, late ed.: D18+. Print.
        Anonymous
"Guide to the New Ratings of the Motion Picture Academy." *Newsweek* 22 Apr. 1999: 42. Print.

PERIODICAL ARTICLES FOUND IN A LIBRARY DATABASE
        Begin the entry as you would for citing an article in a print publication (see above), but do not include the word
"Print." Instead, include the title of the database (italicized), the medium (Web), and the date of access (day, month, year).
        Examples of Articles from Library Databases: Academic Search Premier, Project Muse and JSTOR
Dillon, Janette. "From Revels to Revelation: Shakespeare and the Mask." *Shakespeare Survey* 60 (2007): 58-71.
        Academic Search Premier. Web. 15 Aug. 2009.
Palmer, Daryl W. "Motion and Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet.*" *Philosophy and Literature* 30.2 (2006): 540-54. *Project
        Muse*. Web. 21 Aug. 2009.
Weinberger, Jerry. "Pious Princes and Red-Hot Lovers: The Politics of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet.*" *The Journal of
        Politics* 65.2 (2003): 350-75. *JSTOR*. Web. 15 Aug. 2009.

WEB SITE, WEB PAGE OR SCHOLARLY JOURNAL ARTICLE ON THE WEB
        To cite a Web site, Web page or an article from a scholarly journal on the Internet (not from a Cheng Library data-
base), begin the entry as you would for a comparable print publication but omit the word Print. Include the author, title of
the work (in quotation marks or italicized depending on if it is an independent work or part of a larger Web site), title of
overall Web site italicized (if not included as the title). If page numbers are not available, use "n. pag." (without the
quotes) in the place of page numbers. Include the word Web and the date of access (day, month, year).
        Web page on a Web site (no author)
"Baltimore Poe House and Museum." *Edgar Allan Poe Society of Baltimore*. (2009). Web. 21 May 2009.
        Web page on a Web site (no author and no date, use N.d. or n.d.)
"Maya Angelou Biography." *Maya Angelou: Global Renaissance Woman.* N.d. Web. 8 June 2009.
        Web site (with editors listed but no publisher, use N.p.)
Folsom, Ed and Kenneth M. Price, eds. *The Walt Whitman Archive*. N.p. Web. 15 Aug. 2009.
        Web Page (with author on a larger Web site, no pages, use n. pag.)
Santayana, George. "Walt Whitman: A Dialogue." *The Walt Whitman Archive*. (1890): n. pag. Web. 10 July 2009.
        Scholarly article on the Web (with author)
De Armas, Frederick A. "To See What Men Cannot: Teichoskopia in *Don Quijote.*" *Cervantes* 28.1 (2008): 83-102.
        Web. 1 Sept. 2009.