

Student Name

Professor Name

Course

Date as day-month-year

Title of Paper

What follows are notes and observations regarding MLA format and, to a lesser extent style. Mostly, this is meant to serve as a template for any student looking to write an MLA-formatted paper, though any such student is better off making sure they know the rules for themselves - templates, it must be said, can fail. The content of the paper goes here. Start with a good topic sentence, build an outline of the paper, and then have some sort of transition to the next paragraph. That's a bit deceptive - in fact, you should write your introduction *last* - but if you're studying with Dr. Malesh, the author of this template, you probably already know that. All of the preceding makes it sound really easy to write a paper when in fact it's not, but it is in the end simple (but again, not easy).

The second paragraph, just like the first, is indented by one half inch. The rest of the paper is going to do exactly this. This template should just let you type in whatever you have to say, and should do the following (which is all MLA format stuff): Times New Roman 12 pt font, Double-spaced throughout, one-inch margins, headers consisting of your last name and the page number, and a half-inch indent for every paragraph. No extra space between paragraphs. Header includes name, professor, class, and date. Title is centered and in "titular notation" meaning the first letter of all the important words is capitalized, like "*The Catcher in the Rye*" as opposed to "*The Catcher In The Rye*" or "*The catcher in the rye.*"

Speaking of *The Catcher in the Rye* - notice how the book title is in italics? The rule of thumb for MLA is: if it's a *container*, e.g. a book or website, it is presented in *italics*, and if it's an article or webpage, it is presented in quotes, like "Ten Great Makeup Tips" as seen in *Cosmo* magazine.

Now about *Catcher in the Rye* - it seems like this might be a good point to introduce a long block quote. Here's one from that book:

I'm standing on the edge of some crazy cliff. What I have to do, I have to catch everybody if they start to go over the cliff—I mean if they're running and they don't look where they're going I have to come out from somewhere and catch them. That's all I'd do all day. I'd just be the catcher in the rye and all.(Salinger 42)

The block quote is indented a half inch, and the author's last name and the number on which the quote appears are presented in parentheses, at the end.

That's it - that's the high points! For additional reference, check out owl.english.purdue.edu and look at the MLA section. Don't forget to look at sample papers too - they are one of your best resources for learning academic style, especially the intangible stuff - the formatting is relatively easy, after all...but learning to write in a concise, meaningful way is a skill that will take you a lifetime to master.

The next page includes a fake "Works Cited" list. For the Works Cited list, the words "Works Cited" are centered at the top of the page. After that, you list the titles of the books and articles you read in alphabetical order using a *hanging indent* - that means the first line is NOT indented, but every line after it is.

Works Cited

Familyname, Firstname. "Title of Work," *Title of Website*, Publisher, Date of Publication & Date

Last Updated, <http://www.urlofwebsite.com>, Date of Access

Lastname, Firstname. "Title of Article in Quotation Marks." *Title of Book in Italics*. Volume #,

Issue #. Year of Publication

Surname, Firstname. *Another Book*. Publisher, City of Publication, Year of Publication.