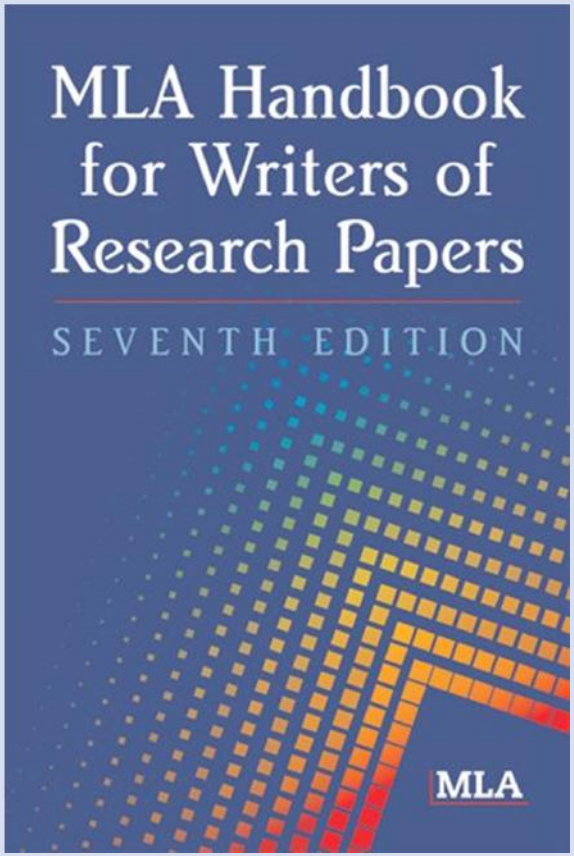
MLA 7th Edition
Formatting and Style Guide

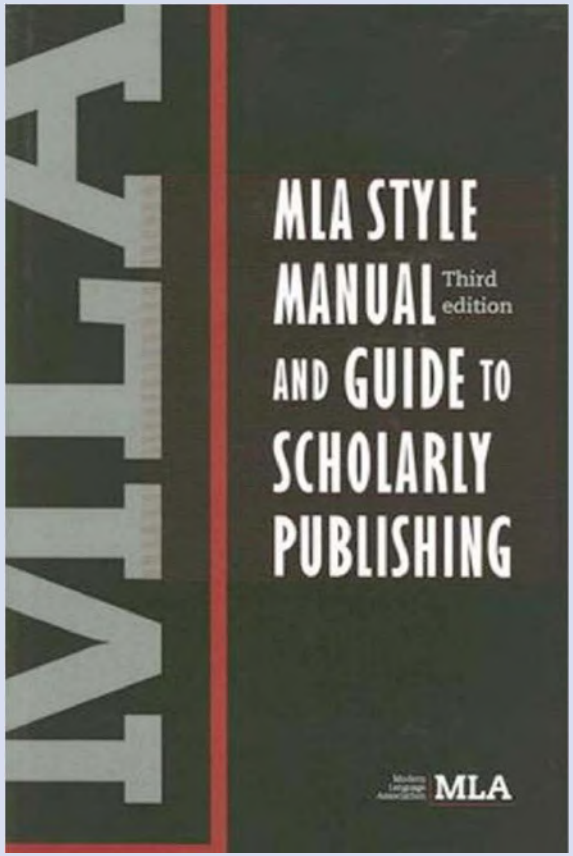
Overview

- **This presentation will cover:**
  - **2009 updates to MLA (7th edition)**
  - **General MLA guidelines**
  - **First page format**
  - **Section headings**
  - **In-text citations**
  - **Formatting quotations**
  - **Works Cited page**

What is MLA?

MLA (Modern Language Association) style formatting is often used in various humanities disciplines.



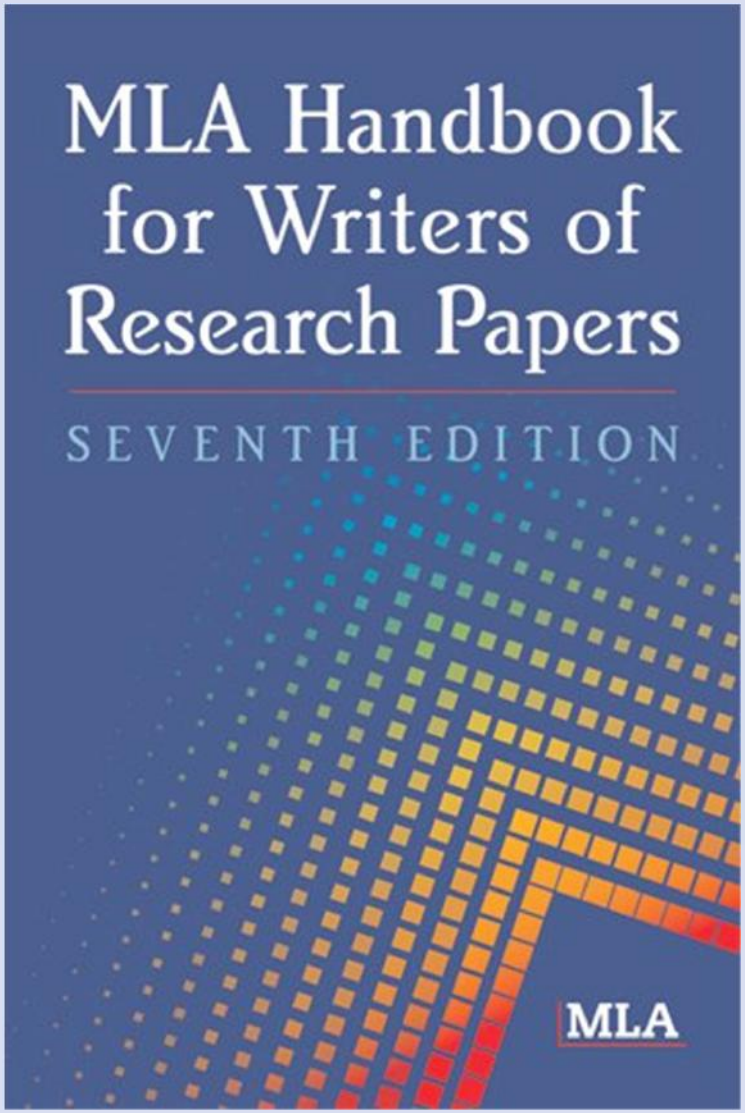


What does MLA regulate?

MLA regulates:

- **Document Format**
- **In-text citations**
- **Works Cited**

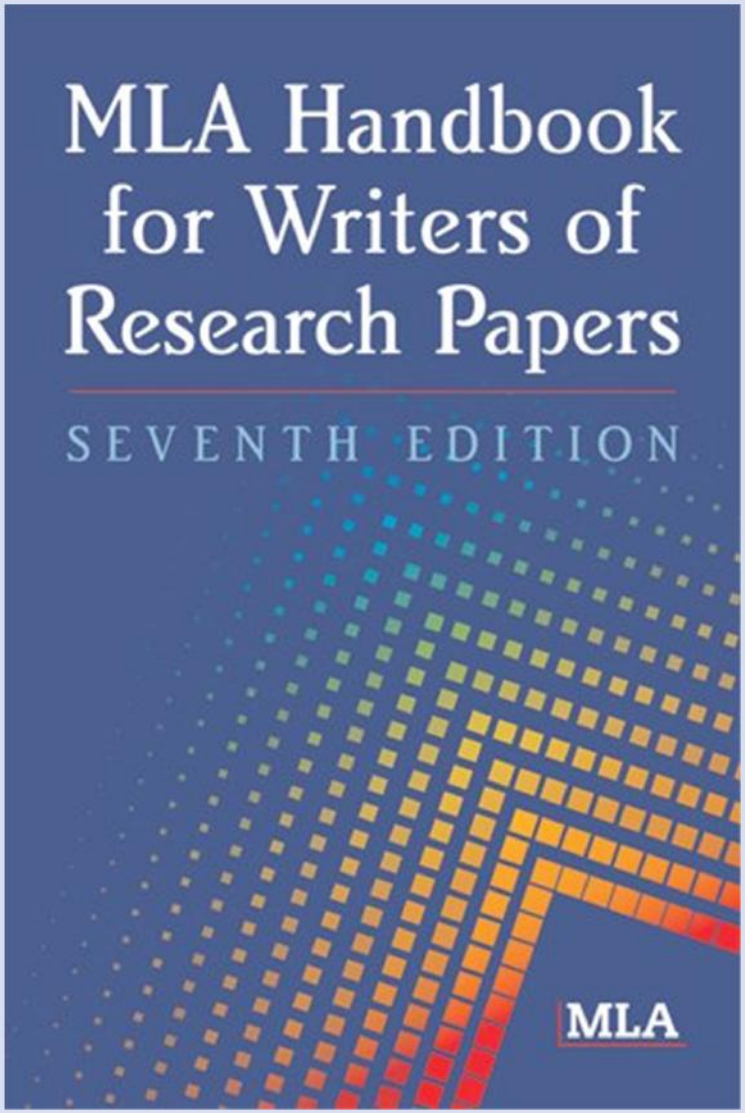
  (a list of all sources used in the paper)



MLA Update 2009

Changes in MLA:

- **No more underlining (only use italics)**
- **Inclusion of publication medium (e.g. Print, Web, etc.)**
- **New abbreviations (e.g., “N.p.“ for “no publisher given“)**



Your Instructor Knows Best

#1 Rule for any formatting style:

Always

Follow your instructor's guidelines

Format: General Guidelines

- **Type on white 8.5“ x 11“ paper**
- **Double-space everything**
- **Use 12 pt. Times New Roman font (or similar font)**
- **Leave only one space after punctuation**
- **Set all margins to 1 inch on all sides**
- **Indent the first line of paragraphs one half-inch**

Format: General Guidelines (continued)

- **Header with page numbers in the upper right corner**
- **Use italics for titles**
- **Endnotes go on a separate page before your Works Cited page**

Formatting the 1st Page

- **No title page**
- **Double space everything**
- **In the upper left corner of the 1st page, list your**
- **name, your instructor's name, the course, and date**
- **Center the paper title (use standard caps but no underlining, italics, quote, or bold)**
- **Create a header in the upper right corner at half inch from the top and one inch from the right of the page (include your last name and page number)**

Sample 1st Page

Smith 1

Pete Smith

Dr. B. Boilermaker

English 106

12 October 2008

Building a Dream: Reasons to Expand

Ross-Ade Stadium

During the 2000 football season, the Purdue Boilermakers won the Big Ten Conference Title, earned their first trip to the Rose Bowl in thirty-four years, and played every game in front of a sold-out crowd. Looking ahead . . .

Formatting Section Headings

- **Headings are generally optional**
- **Headings in essays should be numbered**
- **Headings should be consistent in grammar and formatting but are otherwise up to you**

Sample Section Headings

Numbered (all flush left with no underlining, bold, or italics):

1. Soil Conservation

1.1 Erosion

1.2 Terracing

2. Water Conservation

3. Energy Conservation

Unnumbered (by level):

Level 1 Heading: bold, flush left

Level 2 Heading: italics, flush left

Level 3 Heading: centered, bold

Level 4 Heading: centered, italics

Level 5 Heading: underlined, flush left

In-Text Citations: the Basics

- **MLA uses parenthetical citations**
- **Parenthetical citations depend on the medium (e.g. Print, Web, DVD)**
- **Parenthetical citations also depend on the source's entry on the Works Cited page**
- **Signal word in the text is the first thing in the corresponding entry on the Works Cited page**

Author-Page Style

In-text Example:

Wordsworth stated that Romantic poetry was marked by a "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (263).

Romantic poetry is characterized by the "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (Wordsworth 263). Wordsworth extensively explored the role of emotion in the creative process (263).

Corresponding Works Cited Entry:

Wordsworth, William. *Lyrical Ballads*. London: Oxford UP, 1967. Print.

Print Source with Author

In-text Example:

Human beings have been described by Kenneth Burke as "symbol-using animals" (3).

Human beings have been described as "symbol-using animals" (Burke 3).

Print Source with Author

Corresponding Works Cited Entry:

Burke, Kenneth. *Language as Symbolic Action: Essays on Life, Literature, and Method*. Berkeley: U of California P, 1966. Print.

With Unknown Author

In-text Example:

We see so many global warming hotspots in North America likely because this region has "more readily accessible climatic data and more comprehensive programs to monitor and study environmental change . . ." ("Impact of Global Warming" 6).

With Unknown Author

Corresponding Works Cited Entry:

"The Impact of Global Warming in North America."

***Global Warming: Early Signs*. 1999. Web. 23 Mar.**

2009.

Other In-Text Citations 1

Classic & Literary Works with Multiple Editions

In-text Example:

Marx and Engels described human history as marked by class struggles (79; ch. 1).

Authors with Same Last Names

In-text Example:

Although some medical ethicists claim that cloning will lead to designer children (R. Miller 12), others note that the advantages for medical research outweigh this consideration (A. Miller 46).

Other In-Text Citations 2

Work by Multiple Authors

In-text Examples:

Smith, Yang, and Moore argue that tougher gun control is not needed in the United States (76).

The authors state "Tighter gun control in the United States erodes Second Amendment rights" (Smith, Yang, and Moore 76).

Jones et al. counter Smith, Yang, and Moore's argument by noting the current spike in gun violence in America compels law makers to adjust gun laws (4).

Other In-Text Citations 3

Multiple Works by the Same Author

In-text Examples:

Lightenor has argued that computers are not useful tools for small children ("Too Soon" 38), though he has acknowledged elsewhere that early exposure to computer games does lead to better small motor skill development in a child's second and third year ("Hand-Eye Development" 17).

Visual studies, because it is such a new discipline, may be "too easy" (Elkins, "Visual Studies" 63).

Other In-Text Citations 4

Citing Multivolume Works

In-text Example:

. . . as Quintilian wrote in *Institutio Oratoria* (1: 14-17).

Citing the Bible

In-text Example:

Ezekiel saw "what seemed to be four living creatures," each with faces of a man, a lion, an ox, and an eagle (*New Jerusalem Bible*, Ezek. 1.5-10).

Other In-Text Citations 5

Citing Indirect Sources

In-text Example:

Ravitch argues that high schools are pressured to act as “social service centers, and they don't do that well“ (qtd. in Weisman 259).

Multiple Citations

In-text Example:

. . . as has been discussed elsewhere (Burke 3; Dewey 21).

Other In-Text Citations 6

Miscellaneous Non-Print Sources

In-text Example:

Werner Herzog's *Fitzcarraldo* stars Herzog's long-time film partner, Klaus Kinski. During the shooting of *Fitzcarraldo*, Herzog and Kinski were often at odds, but their explosive relationship fostered a memorable and influential film.

Corresponding Works Cited Entry:

Herzog, Werner, dir. *Fitzcarraldo*. Perf. Klaus Kinski. Filmverlag der Autoren, 1982. Film.

Other In-Text Citations 7

Sources from the Internet

In-text Example:

One online film critic stated that *Fitzcarraldo* is "...a beautiful and terrifying critique of obsession and colonialism" (Garcia, "Herzog: a Life").

Corresponding Works Cited Entry:

Garcia, Elizabeth. "Herzog: a Life." *Online Film Critics Corner*. The Film School of New Hampshire, 2 May 2002. Web. 8 Jan. 2009.

Formatting Short Quotations

In-text Examples:

According to some, dreams express “profound aspects of personality” (Foulkes 184), though others disagree.

According to Foulkes's study, dreams may express “profound aspects of personality” (184).

Is it possible that dreams may express “profound aspects of personality” (Foulkes 184)?

Cullen concludes, “Of all the things that happened there / That's all I remember” (11-12).

Formatting Long Quotations

In-text Example:

Nelly Dean treats Heathcliff poorly and dehumanizes him throughout her narration:

> **They entirely refused to have it in bed with them, or even in their room, and I had no more sense, so, I put it on the landing of the stairs, hoping it would be gone on the morrow. By chance, or else attracted by hearing his voice, it crept to Mr. Earnshaw's door, and there he found it on quitting his chamber. Inquiries were made as to how it got there; I was obliged to confess, and in recompense for my cowardice and inhumanity was sent out of the house. (Bronte 78)**

Adding/Omitting Words

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).

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: The Basics

Sample Works Cited Page:

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.

Works Cited Page: Books

Basic Format:

Lastname, Firstname. *Title of Book*. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication. Medium of Publication.

Examples:

Gleick, James. *Chaos: Making a New Science*. New York: Penguin, 1987. Print.

Gillespie, Paula, and Neal Lerner. *The Allyn and Bacon Guide to Peer Tutoring*. Boston: Allyn, 2000. Print.

Palmer, William J. *Dickens and New Historicism*. New York: St. Martin's, 1997. Print.

---. *The Films of the Eighties: A Social History*. Carbondale: Southern Illinois UP, 1993. Print.

Works Cited Page: Periodicals

Article in a Magazine Format

Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Periodical* Day Month Year: pages. Medium of publication.

Example:

Buchman, Dana. "A Special Education." *Good Housekeeping* Mar. 2006: 143-8. Print.

Article in Scholarly Journal Format

Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Journal* Volume.Issue (Year): pages. Medium of publication.

Example:

Duvall, John N. "The (Super)Marketplace of Images: Television as Unmediated Mediation in DeLillo's White Noise." *Arizona Quarterly* 50.3 (1994): 127- 53. Print.

Works Cited Page: Web

Web Source Format:

Editor, author, or compiler name (if available). "Article Name."

***Name of Site*. Version number. Name of institution/**

organization affiliated with the site (sponsor or publisher).

Date of last update. Medium of publication. Date of access.

Works Cited Page: Web

Examples:

Bernstein, Mark. "10 Tips on Writing the Living Web." *A List Apart: For People Who Make Websites*. A List Apart Mag., 16 Aug. 2002. Web. 4 May 2009.

Felluga, Dino. *Guide to Literary and Critical Theory*. Purdue U, 28 Nov. 2003. Web. 10 May 2006.

"How to Make Vegetarian Chili." *eHow.com*. eHow. n.d. Web. 24 Feb. 2009.

Works Cited Page: Other

Personal Interview Example:

Purdue, Pete. Personal interview. 1 Dec. 2000.

Speech Example:

Stein, Bob. *Computers and Writing Conference*. Purdue University. Union Club Hotel, West Lafayette, IN. 23 May 2003. Keynote address.

Works Cited Page: Other

Film Example:

***The Usual Suspects*. Dir. Bryan Singer. Perf. Kevin Spacey, Gabriel Byrne, Chazz Palminteri, Stephen Baldwin, and Benecio del Toro. Polygram, 1995. Film.**

For More Information

- **The Purdue OWL http://owl.english.purdue.edu**
- **Purdue Writing Lab @ HEAV 226**
- **Composition textbooks**
- ***MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7th ed.**

The End

OWL™
Online Writing Lab
Purdue University
owl.english.purdue.edu