

# **MLA 2009 Formatting and Style Guide**



# **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

- **Double space everything**
- **In the upper left corner of the 1st page:**  
**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 . . .

# **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 U.P., 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 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).

# Other In-Text Citations 4

## Citing Multivolume Works

### In-text Example:

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

# 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)

# Works Cited Page: The Basics

## Sample Works Cited page:

Smith 36

### 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*. 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.