

Paper Formatting

[View a sample paper](#), which includes all the rules listed in this section.

Heading and Title

An MLA-formatted research paper does not need a title page (unless your instructor requires one, of course). Instead, include at the top of your first page a heading – consisting of your name, your instructor’s name, the course number, and the date – and the title of your paper.

The title should be centered and double-spaced. Do not italicize, bold, underline, or put your title in quotation marks (unless using a quote in the title), and do not use a period after your title.

Main Body

Your paper should:

- Be double spaced
- Have 1-inch margins on all sides
- Be typed in 12-point, easily readable font
- Indent paragraphs ½ inch
- Indent set-off quotations (e.g. block quotations) 1-inch
- Include a page number on every page, in the upper right-hand corner, ½ inch from the top of the page and flush with the right margin. Type your last name before the page number.
- Leave one space after a period or other concluding punctuation mark (unless your instructor requires two spaces).

Notes

There are two types of parenthetical notes that can be used under MLA style: those that provide additional content and those that offer evaluative comments on sources and/or provide several citations. These notes may be placed at the end of a paper (as endnotes) or at the bottom of the page (as footnotes).

All notes (endnotes and footnotes) should be numbered consecutively in the order in which they appear in your paper. In the text of your paper, footnote numbers should be superscripted and should follow any punctuation (except a dash).

If you include an endnotes section, it should be entitled ‘Notes’ and should appear right before your Works Cited.

Works Cited

The list of works cited appear at the end of your paper and should be started on a new page, continuing the page numbers of the text. The title “Works Cited” should appear centered on the top of the page.

All works cited entries should be double-spaced and use a ‘hanging-indent’ format, which means that the first line of each reference is left-aligned while subsequent lines are indented ½ inch.

References are listed alphabetically by author; if there is no author use the title of the work, ignoring any initial, ‘A,’ ‘An,’ or ‘The’ or the equivalent in another language.