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MLA 2009 BASICS:

What is MLA and Why Do YOU Have to Use It?

MLA stands for Modern Language Association. Basically, when asked to use MLA format you are being asked to format your paper in a certain way and to follow certain rules. By correctly following the MLA guidelines, papers are easier to read, research is easier to trail, and the writer is able to demonstrate their capability to understand and follow detailed instructions.

9 Basic Rules of MLA:

1. <u>Double-space</u> entire paper	2. Include <u>right aligned Header</u> with Last Name/Page Number
3. <u>One inch margins</u> all around	4. Use <u>12pt. legible font</u> (Callibri, Times New Roman, etc.)
5. Include <u>Your Name, Instructor's Name, Course Name, and Date</u> (left-aligned and press enter after each entry) and <u>Title of Paper</u> (center aligned) on 1 st page (Instructor might require title page instead of this information on your first page, always follow instructor rules/guidelines).	
6. <u>Italicize titles</u> of published longer works like books, movies, periodicals, films, etc. (i.e. <i>Bambi</i>)	
7. <u>Cite your sources</u> within your paper where necessary, and again in Works Cited page.	
8. If any <u>endnotes</u> , title a <u>separate page</u> "Notes" and place right before Works Cited page	
9. <u>End with a "Works Cited"</u> page (All sources referred to in paper should appear on this page) (Citation tools and Sample Papers are available at the WHCC Library Website)	

Visit [WHCC Library Website](#) under [Writing Resources](#) for guides, tools, and other help!

Overview of most important MLA CHANGES MADE as of April 2009:

- **No More Underlining! Underlining is no more.** MLA now recommends italicizing titles of independently published works (books, periodicals, films, etc).
- **No More URLs!** While website entries will still include authors, article names, and website names, when available, MLA no longer requires URLs. Writers are, however, encouraged to provide a URL if the citation information does not lead readers to easily find the source.
- **Publication Medium.** Every entry receives a "marker" which states what type of media the source came from. Most entries will be listed as Print or Web, but other possibilities include Performance, DVD, or TV. Most of these markers will appear at the end of entries; however, markers for Web sources are followed by the date of access.
- **New Abbreviations.** Many web source entries now require a publisher name, a date of publication, and/or page numbers. When no publisher name appears on the website, write N.p. for no publisher given. When sites omit a date of publication, write n.d. for no date. For online journals that appear only online (no print version) or on databases that do not provide pagination, write n. pag. for no pagination.