



# MLA Formatting

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Warren County Community College  
Instructional Support Center



# What We're Talking About Today

- Formatting your essay according to MLA
  - Differences between in-text citations and a works cited/references page
  - Accessing Library Resources/Databases
  - Questions + Tutor feedback
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# What You Need Today

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- A copy of your essay
- A notebook + pen/pencil to take notes
- WCCC Library MLA Guidelines



# What is MLA?

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# What is MLA?

## MLA FORMAT

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MLA stands for the Modern Language Association.

MLA style is a method of documenting resources in academic writing within the humanities disciplines, including but not limited to English language and literature. When using MLA style, this applies to not only how resources are cited within a work, but also the physical formatting.

# MLA Formatting



# The Basics of MLA

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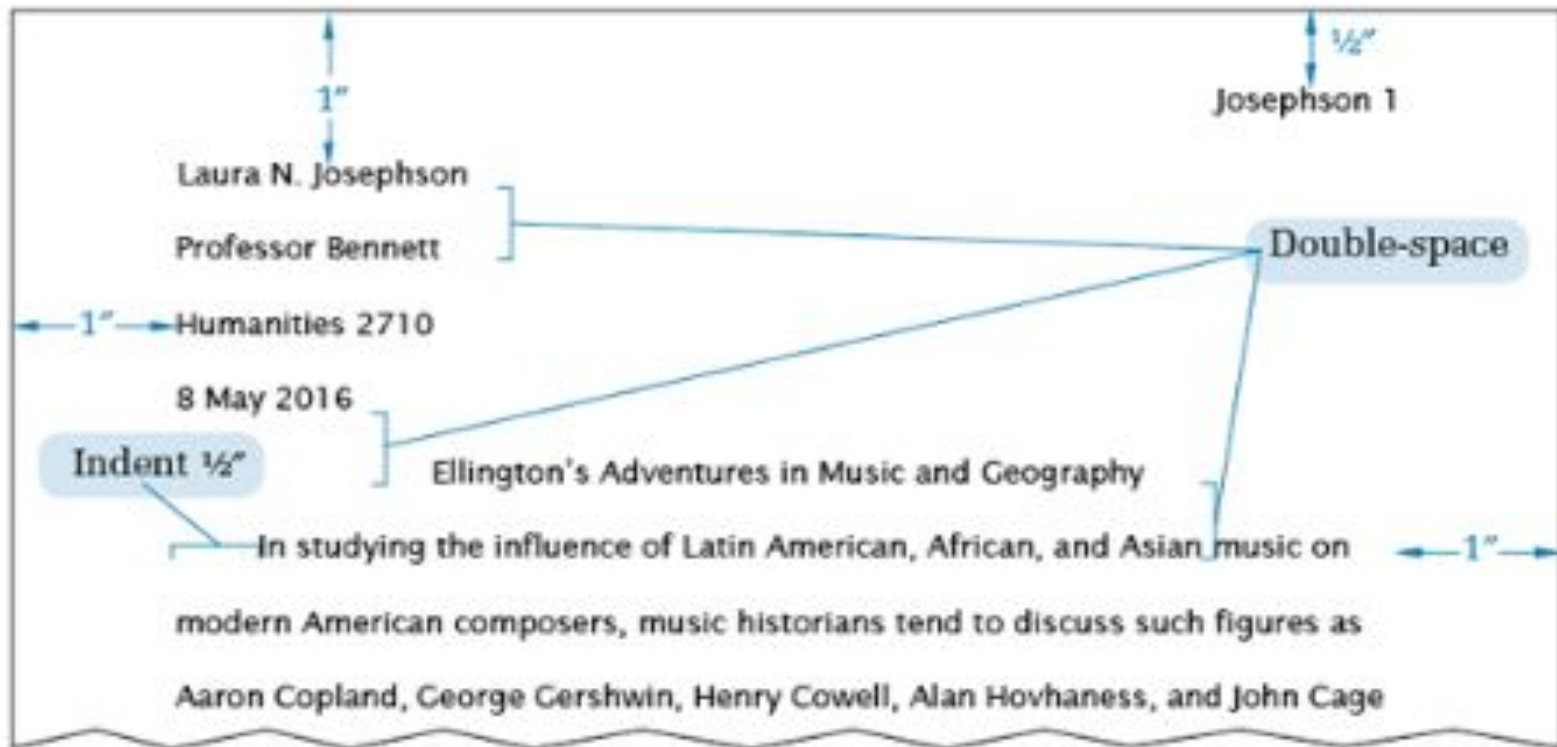
Every MLA Essay needs:

- **A header** (your name, professor's name, course, and date)
- A center justified **title**
- Top right hand corner **page number** + your last name
- **1 inch margins**
- **Works Cited page**

And should be:

- Double spaced
- Times New Roman font/size 12

Sample Essay from Purdue University: [Purdue Owl Sample MLA Essay](#)



## Sample MLA Essay

<http://warren.libguides.com/c.php?g=789380&p=5650656>



# Types of MLA Citations

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## In-Text Citations

These citations are found in the body of your essay, aka in “text.”

These are very abbreviated versions of what the reader can find on the works cited page, and include the author’s last name and page number for the specific quote being used.

### Example:

(Author’s Last Name page number)

## Works Cited

This is a comprehensive list of every source you used and includes the full citation for the resources used within the paper, type of source, where the source is located/found via web, print, etc., when you accessed it, and the total number of pages you used.

This is what WCCC’s looking for:

[WCCC’s MLA Citation Guidelines](#)

# Types of Resources

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The **type of resource** you use determines **how** you cite that source on the Works Cited page.

Types of sources are then organized by the number or type of author, i.e. *anthology, 1 author, 3 or more authors, etc.*

- Cengage
- Print
- Phone/Tablet App.-Based
- Magazine
- Newspaper
- Journal
- Online Database
- Ebook
- Scholarly Articles (Bloom's)
- Website
- Journal Article on a Website
- Audio/Visual (Artwork)
- Video (Youtube, DVD, etc.)
- Lecture Notes
- Interview You Conducted

# MLA Works Cited Examples

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## Works Cited Entry Format:

Last name of author, First name of author. *Title of Book*. Edition (if any), Publisher, Date.  
*Platform*, URL. Accessed Date.

## Example:

Spielvogel, Jackson J. *Western Civilization*. 10<sup>th</sup> ed., Cengage Learning, 2018. *MindTap*,  
ng.cengage.com/static/nb/ui/evo/index.html?eISBN=9781305952331&id=415046904  
&s napshotId=1032288&dockAppUid=16&nbId=1032288&. Accessed 15 Jan. 2019.

(Sample Cengage Works Cited Entry from WCCC's Citation Guide)

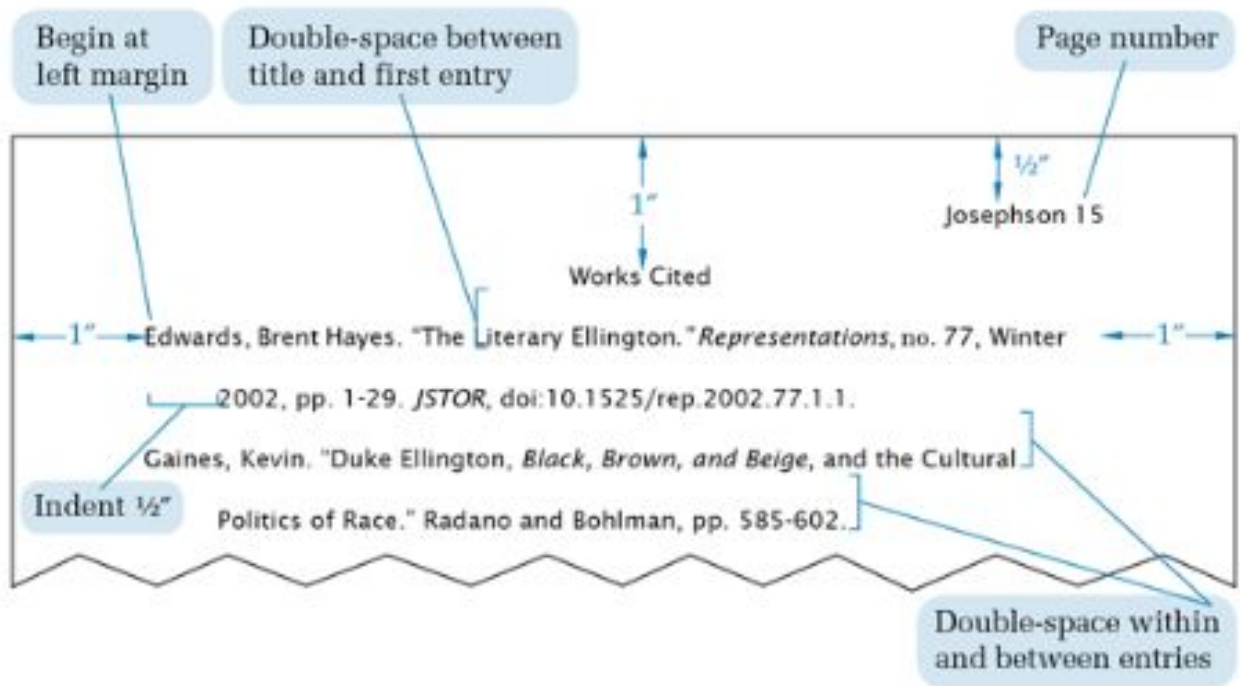
[Sample Purdue Works Cited Page](#)

# Formatting a Works Cited Page

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A Works Cited page is vital to a MLA Style paper. The Works Cited page includes the full citation for the resources used within the paper. A Works Cited page should:

- **be on its own page** at the end of your paper (use the Page Break feature in Word to do this; you do not need to create a separate document)
- have the words Works Cited at the top, centered (not in bold or italics)
- be formatted like the rest of the paper (margins, font, header, etc.)
- include hanging indents for the second line of each entry
- be in alphabetical order (A to Z)



Sample Works Cited Page

# Using the Library Resources



Intro to MLA

<http://warren.libguides.com/MLAStyle/mla2>



Accessing Databases

<http://warren.libguides.com/c.php?q=789378>



Info. Literacy

<http://warren.libguides.com/c.php?q=789379>

# Using Transitions



## According to UNC, Chapel Hill

“transitions provide the reader with directions for how to piece together your ideas into a logically coherent argument. They are words with particular meanings that tell the reader to think and react in a particular way to your ideas. In providing the reader with these important cues, transitions help readers understand the logic of how your ideas fit together.”



# Using Transitions

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If transitions connect our ideas together and direct the reader how to interpret tone, thought, and content in our essays, *how do we use transitions?*

## Start with Organization

UNC says:

“The organization of your written work includes two elements:

(1) the order in which you have chosen to present the different parts of your discussion or argument, **and**

(2) the relationships you construct between these parts.”

# Types of Transitions

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- **Transitions between sections:** these include transitional paragraphs that summarize for the reader the information just covered and specify the relevance of this information to the discussion in the following section.
- **Transitions between paragraphs:** after arranging paragraphs so that the content of one leads logically to the next, the transition will highlight a relationship that already exists by summarizing the previous paragraph and suggesting something of the content of the paragraph that follows. A transition between paragraphs can be a word or two (however, for example, similarly), a phrase, or a sentence, and can be at the end of the first paragraph, the beginning of the second paragraph, or in both places.
- **Transitions within paragraphs:** As with transitions between sections and paragraphs, transitions within paragraphs act as cues by helping readers to anticipate what is coming before they read it. Within paragraphs, transitions tend to be single words or short phrases.

<b>LOGICAL RELATIONSHIP</b>	<b>TRANSITIONAL EXPRESSION</b>
<b>Similarity</b>	also, in the same way, just as ... so too, likewise, similarly
<b>Exception/Contrast</b>	but, however, in spite of, on the one hand ... on the other hand, nevertheless, nonetheless, notwithstanding, in contrast, on the contrary, still, yet
<b>Sequence/Order</b>	first, second, third, ... next, then, finally
<b>Time</b>	after, afterward, at last, before, currently, during, earlier, immediately, later, meanwhile, now, recently, simultaneously, subsequently, then
<b>Example</b>	for example, for instance, namely, specifically, to illustrate
<b>Emphasis</b>	even, indeed, in fact, of course, truly
<b>Place/Position</b>	above, adjacent, below, beyond, here, in front, in back, nearby, there
<b>Cause and Effect</b>	accordingly, consequently, hence, so, therefore, thus
<b>Additional Support or Evidence</b>	additionally, again, also, and, as well, besides, equally important, further, furthermore, in addition, moreover, then
<b>Conclusion/Summary</b>	finally, in a word, in brief, briefly, in conclusion, in the end, in the final analysis, on the whole, thus, to conclude, to summarize, in sum, to sum up, in summary

Questions?  
Thoughts?

If you have a physical copy of your essay and want to review any of the elements we discussed today, tutors are available now to assist you.

**NOTE:**

Sessions are 10 minutes long, and will only focus on MLA formatting and essay structure.

# How Would You Rate Us?



Please **visit the ISC** to *complete a review* on our presentation.  
We'd love to hear from you about the **best**, the **worst**, and  
**everything else**.