

Yourfirstname Lastname

Teacher Name

Classname 1000

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MLA Sample Paper – Seventh Edition Title of Paper

This part is your introduction. Typically, it will be a paragraph long introducing your topic to your reader. The last sentence of your introductory paragraph typically is your thesis sentence, which helps your reader get a good idea of what the paper will cover in one sentence. Thus, the designing of this paper is a default document for you to see typical MLA formatting, though you may need to check with your teacher for specific details they prefer.

The paragraphs following the introductory paragraph would typically start the body of your paper. There are typically many paragraphs in your paper depending on the length of your paper. Most paragraphs will be ideas you want to talk about or supporting paragraphs giving examples to an idea mentioned in the previous paragraph. An example would be having a paragraph about the statistics of how many people have OCD and how that relates to your topic, and then you could have a supporting paragraph after that with an example about what people experience when they have OCD.

While you typically have many paragraphs in the body of your paper, one important thing is your transitions between paragraphs. Transitions are words or phrases that help your reader keep up with you while reading your paper. If you have one paragraph about Bears and the next paragraph about Salmon runs in Alaska, you still need a transition to get your audience to bridge the gap between the two. If your topic is about Wildlife in Alaska, then you could transition with the phrase, “Another animal that lives in Alaska other than the Brown Bear is the Salmon”

(Westerman 6). This ties your previous paragraph to the next paragraph and to your original topic all in one sentence.

When writing your paragraphs, there are many formatting issues you also need to take into consideration before turning it in. Your paper would typically be in Times New Roman 12 point font. The main text of your paper has a first line indent of .5 inches, which you can do either by tabbing the first line over, or by highlighting the text and going into the paragraph settings and changing them to First Line indentation. MS Word also has the default setting of adding space between paragraphs. You can correct this easily by going into the paragraph settings and removing the space after the paragraph to 0 points.

Headers can also be another tricky formatting issue on MLA papers. In the header, you double click on the header then align your text to the right by either clicking the Align Text Right button on the paragraph section of the home tab, or by double clicking on the right side of the paper. Type your last name, and then insert the page number by finding the Insert tab then clicking on Page Number button, scrolling over Current Position, then insert a Plain Number.

Thankfully, quotes do not need formatting in MS Word, but properly citing quotes and using in-text citations can be tricky. It is helpful to introduce your quotes and then explain how the quote relates to your topic/idea this quote is trying to support in your paper. For in-text citations, there are many variations depending on the number of authors, no authors, page numbers, no page numbers, corporate authors, and if you only have a title with no author. Though we cannot cover every example, the following is a few examples for the basic format on how you can introduce quotes and paraphrases.

For paraphrases not separated by quotation marks, it is harder to separate your ideas from their ideas due to it all being in your own words. Thus, it is important to make sure to introduce

the part you are quoting and end it with an in-text citation so the reader knows your ideas vs. the person you are quoting. You can introduce a quote by stating that in the book *How to Write Bibliographies* the author suggests that he knows everything about writing bibliographies and then you cite it afterward such as (ALastname). If you have a document or article that does not have an author, then basically your in-text citations will be listed by “the first thing on the list on your work cited page, such as the following” (“Authorless Paper on Random Objects in Space” 6). Both ALastname and “Authorless Paper...” can be found easily on your Work Cited page by your reader if they wish further information from the person you quoted.

Finally, this would be your conclusion paragraph. This paragraph is going to go over briefly everything covered in your paper and bring up any conclusions you would like your audience to consider. In an MLA formatted paper, many things make up an “A” MLA paper. Getting your story, your research, and your ideas across to your reader effectively is the focus of MLA paper. Formatting, transitions, using quotes effectively, and in-text citations are only some of the things that help you get those ideas across to your academic audience. After your conclusion paragraph, you would insert a page break and start your Work Cited page. On your Work Cited page, you sort the entries alphabetically and put it in hanging format as illustrated below. In MS Word, you can find the hanging format in the paragraph options, under the section Indentation, on the drop down menu next to Special.

Works Cited

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