Sample Paper

1-inch margins on all sides

Phung 1

Running Head:
Last name and
page #

First and last name → Elizabeth Phung

Professor's name → Professor Professorson

Course title → GEW 101B

Date → 18 November 2019

Full title, centered

Fabulous MLA Paper

General Format:

Times New Roman

12pt. font

Double-spaced

Begin writing your essay here. Make sure to introduce your paper in an academic way, providing any context your reader might need.

If you paraphrase a source, utilize your in-text citation and include the corresponding author(s) and page numbers(s) (Lyche and Perez 100-101). Follow the same format "if you decide to quote from your sources as well" (Russell et. al).

Sample Works Cited Page

List citations double-spaced and in alphabetical order by author's last name.

Center "Works Cited" at the top of a new page

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Works Cited

Header continues

Use a 0.5-inch hanging indent for sources longer than one line.

Lyche, Kailey, and Guillermo Perez. "MLA Rocks." The Writing Center, 2019, pp. 100-101.

For sources with 3+ authors, list first author only, then et al.

Russell, Tony et al. "MLA Eighth Edition: What's New and Different." Purdue Owl, 2016,

Optional/at professor's discretion: URL and access date

owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/22/. Accessed 4 May 2018.

In-Text Citations

In-text citations indicate that you have referenced, either through paraphrase or direct quotation, outside sources in your paper. Every outside source you reference should also be in your Works Cited.

Below are some common examples of in-text citations. **See the MLA trifold for more examples.**

For block quotes (over 4 lines):

Indent 1-inch, remove quotation marks, and insert period before the citation as shown.

Sherman Alexie depicts his earliest childhood memories with reading and writing:

> The words themselves were mostly foreign, but I still remember the exact moment when I first understood, with a sudden clarity, the purpose of a paragraph. I didn't have the vocabulary to say 'paragraph', but I realized that a paragraph was a fence that held words. (464)

For paraphrasing:

With author's name in text: Alexie said that he learned to read through comic books (464).

Without author's name: The importance of comic books in reading was established (Alexie 464).

For direct quotations:

With author's name: According to Naomi Baron, reading is "just half of literacy" (194).

Without author's name: Reading is just "half of literacy" (Baron 194).

For citing sources with no author:

Use the first few words of the reference entry (usually the title) and maintain the same format as the entry.

Correct formatting is important ("MLA Rocks").
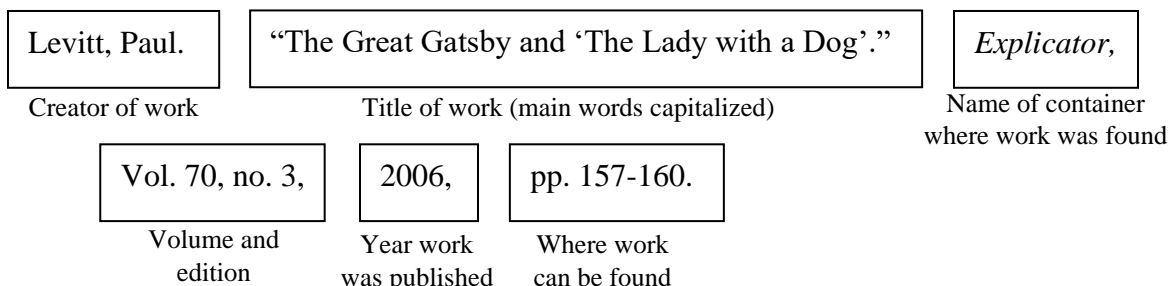
For citing sources with multiple authors:

A reference with 2 authors: It is essential to ensure prompts are answered thoroughly (Lyche and Perez).

A reference with 3+ authors: The Writing Center is a great resource (Lyche et. al).

For citing sources that reference an outside source:

According to Perez, "online resources are also useful for resolving format issues" (qtd. in Lyche 100).

Anatomy of an MLA Reference

Levitt, Paul.	"The Great Gatsby and 'The Lady with a Dog'."	*Explicator,*
Creator of work	Title of work (main words capitalized)	Name of container where work was found

Vol. 70, no. 3,	2006,	pp. 157-160.
Volume and edition	Year work was published	Where work can be found

The information used to compile this handout comes from the MLA Handbook (8th edition).