

Graduation Project

Research Paper Option

Description:

The research project will provide students with the opportunities to investigate and research an approved topic and demonstrate the proper use of a variety of research techniques.

REQUIRED Steps:

1. After your project proposal is accepted, meet with Mrs. Liljestrand and Mrs. Kephart to discuss the research paper process (you will be pulled out of class for this).
2. Create and utilize a Noodlebib account for all steps of the paper (see Noodlebib directions on library website).
3. Combine cited information from your sources with YOUR OWN ideas to formulate your 10-page research paper. Use this guide, the English department Writing Guide, the OAHS Library website, and Noodlebib to ensure you are doing everything correctly.
4. While compiling information and writing the final draft of your paper, keep in mind the following common errors.
Your paper will NOT receive a passing grade if any of these items are not done/incorrect. See the examples below for formatting the first page and Works Cited page.
 - a. Your entire paper should be formatted according to MLA Style (including the heading, header, title, double spacing, 1-inch margins, 12-pt Times New Roman font, in-text citations, Works Cited page, etc.).
 - b. Your paper should be a minimum of 10 pages in length.
 - c. Your paper should include a properly formatted Works Cited page (not included in the 10 pages) with a minimum of five sources listed. These sources should be authoritative and reliable. Do NOT simply submit a list of website URLs as a Works Cited page.
 - d. Within the text of your paper, include an abundance of MLA-formatted in-text citations – both for your directly cited AND paraphrased information. Aim for at least three in-text citations per paragraph.
 - e. Your paper should be formal in tone – avoid the use of first/second-person pronouns, personal opinions, and slang/informal language.
5. Submit the FINAL version of your research paper – edited, polished, already presented after school – to Blackboard (see directions on high school website). Note: any paper with a plagiarism score above a 30% will automatically fail.
6. Wait for your research paper to be graded. You will be notified by Mr. Wendle if/when you pass.
7. The power point presentation with graphics relevant to topic (4 slides minimum plus title slide; size 36 font) will be presented at a later date scheduled by the graduation project coordinator.

First Page

Jones 1

Martha Jones

Mrs. Brady

Graduation Project

11 May 2007

Global Warming and our Changing Climate

Judging by the recent occurrence of many freak weather events, it would seem that global warming is having the effects on the earth that many scientists predicted

Works Cited Page

Reyburn 3

Works Cited

"Benjamin Franklin." *Historic World Leaders*. Edited by Anne Commire.

Gale, 1994. *U.S. History in Context*. www.cengagegale.com.

"The Electric Ben Franklin." *USHistory.org*, Independence Hall Association, 2014, www.ushistory.org/franklin/info. Accessed 1 Feb. 2015.

Isaacson, Walter. "Benjamin Franklin and the Art of Humility." *Newsweek*, 21 Jan. 2009, p. 59. *U.S. History in Context*, www.cengagegale.com.

Oxford Area High School MLA 8 Quick Reference

What is MLA Style?

MLA Style provides researchers and writers with guidelines on how to document sources and use the ideas of others in their own work. The guide below is an abbreviated version of the 8th edition of the *MLA Handbook*. For more detailed instructions and examples, see the full handbook, visit University of Purdue's Online Writing Lab (OWL) or use Noodlebib, a subscription-based online research organizer which is available through the library website. Noodlebib Express is a free citation generator that can be used without a login.

Why do We Use MLA?

Students completing research projects are responsible for providing standardized information about their sources so that borrowed ideas and words are properly credited and can be easily identified and accessed by others. By documenting research carefully, researchers: (1) demonstrate the quality of their work and strength of their arguments; (2) give credit to original sources and avoid plagiarizing; and (3) ensure that readers can quickly locate the sources used for their own purposes.

MLA Format

ALL essays must adhere to the following formatting guidelines*:

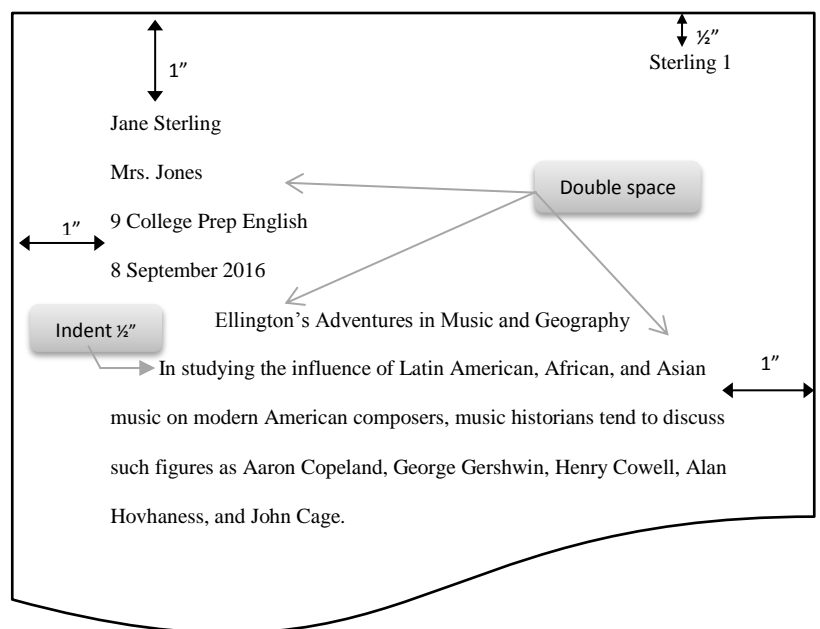
General Formatting Guidelines

- Papers must be typed and printed on standard white, 8.5 x 11 inch paper.
- Double-space the entire text of the paper, NO extra spaces between paragraphs.
- Set document margins to 1 inch on all sides.
- Use Times New Roman font type, 12 pt. font size.
- Insert a header with page number aligned flush-right; type your last name before the page number. This running header should continue on all pages of the paper, from the first page to works cited page.
- Indent the first line of paragraphs one half-inch from the left margin.
- Italicize novels, plays, books, magazine titles and other longer, self-contained works.
- Indicate poems, short stories, chapters of books, and articles with "quotation marks."

*Unless otherwise instructed by a teacher to use an alternative format such as APA or Chicago Style.

Formatting the First Page of your Paper

- The first page should be double spaced throughout; NO extra spaces anywhere.
- In the top left corner, type the **MLA header**: your first and last name, your instructor's name, the course, and the date (in MLA format).
- Type the title in Title Case (standard title capitalization).
- The title should be centered, NOT underlined, bold, caps, italics, quotation marks, etc. Do NOT add extra spaces before or after the title.



List of WorksCited and In-text Citation

MLA style requires two types of entries for each borrowed source:

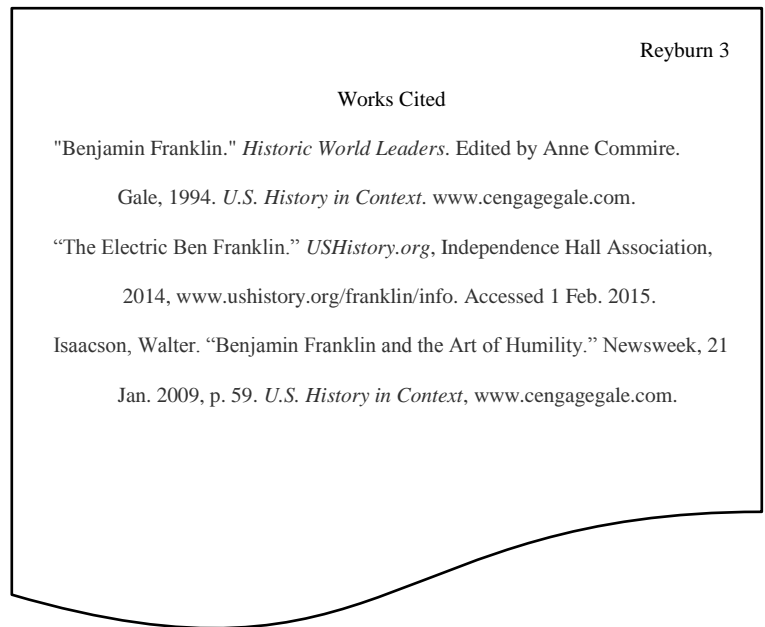
The first is a detailed entry or citation in the **list of works cited**. The second is an **in-text citation**, an abbreviated version of the full citation placed within the body of the students' writing, which directs the reader back to the corresponding full citation in the works cited list.

Formatting the Works Cited Page

When citing the works of others in an essay or paper you list the source on the Works Cited page.

General rules for creating a **Works Cited page**:

- The Works Cited will be the last page of your paper/essay and its OWN page.
- It should have the same header, font, spacing and margins as the rest of your paper.
- The title of the page will be: Works Cited. The title should be centered, **NOT** underlined, in bold, caps, italics, quotation marks, etc.
- Your sources should be listed in alphabetical order (ignore a, an, the).
- Do not skip spaces between entries.
- Do not use bullets or number the sources
- Indent the second and subsequent lines of citations by 0.5 inches to create a hanging indent.



Creating Citations for the Works Cited List

- 1 Author.
- 2 Title of source.
- 3 Title of container,
- 4 Other contributors,
- 5 Version,
- 6 Number,
- 7 Publisher,
- 8 Publication date,
- 9 Location.

MLA Core Elements

Each citation in the works cited list is made up of simple traits shared by most information sources, known as “core elements,” which are listed in the adjacent chart. The chart also indicates the order by which elements are to be listed and the punctuation that should follow each element when preparing the citation.

Creating a Citation for the Works Cited List

To create a citation, begin by visually inspecting the source to identify each of the core elements that MLA suggests including.

Some of the core elements do not pertain to all types of sources; while some sources may not provide the information requested. In these cases, the field is simply left blank. List the items that can be found in the order indicated and include the appropriate punctuation mark after each element. See the example in the chart below for general format and more specific examples for various source types.

MLA 8 Citation Examples by Source Type

Follow the examples below to properly format citations for various source types. For more detailed instructions and examples, visit University of Purdue's Online Writing Lab (OWL). Students may also use **Noodlebib Express** to quickly and easily generate citations for copy and paste into the Works Cited list. The full version of **Noodlebib** (complete online research organizer) is available to OAHS students using their district login.

General Format

Author. "Title." *Title of the container*. Other contributors, Version, Number, Publisher's name, Date of publication, Location.

Book

Wiesel, Elie. *Night*. Hill and Wang, 2006.

eBook

Wanjie, Anne. *Basics of the Human Body*. Rosen Publishing, 2014. *MackinVIA*,
<https://oasd.mackinvia.com/Reader/Launch?viaId=3191310&bookId=6819490&language=0>.

Book with two authors

Haywood, Kathleen, and Catherine Lewis. *Archery: Steps to Success*. 4th ed., Human Kinetics, 2014.

Book with three or more authors

Matthews, Graham, et al. *Disaster Management in Archives, Libraries, and Museums*. Ash gate, 2009.

Two or more Books by the Same Author

Larson, Eric. *Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania*. Crown Publishers, 2016.

---. *Devil in the White City*.

Reference Book

Da Cruz, Elyssa Schram. "Cocktail Dress." *Encyclopedia of Clothing and Fashion*, edited by Valerie Steele, vol. 1, Charles Scribner's Sons, 2005, pp. 274-276. *Gale Virtual Reference Library*,
<http://go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?p=GVRL&sw=w&u=pl2623&v=2.1&it=r&id=GALE%7CCX3427500131&asid=8bf5f437fb4945cce5c>.

Chapter from an Anthology

Bennet, Jessica. "The Flip Side of Internet Fame." *Acting out Culture: Readings for Critical Inquiry*, edited by James S. Miller, 3rd. ed., Bedford St. Martin's, 2009, pp. 90-93.

Play in an Anthology or Textbook

Shakespeare, William. *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar*. *Pearson Common Core Literature: Grade 10*, Pearson, 2015, pp. 547-654.

Translated Book

Piug, Manuel. *Kiss of the Spider Woman*. Translated by Thomas Colchie, Vintage Books, 1991.

Journal Article (in print)

Baron, Naomi S. "Redefining Reading: The Impact of Digital Communication Media." *PMLA*, vol. 128, no. 1, Jan. 2013, pp. 193-200.

Journal Article (from a database)

Smith, Peter Andrey. "When DNA Implicates the Innocent." *Scientific American*, v. 314, no. 5, June 2016, *Science Reference Center*, <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=mfm&AN=115>.

Magazine Article

Karras, Tula. "The Question Every Mother Should Ask." *Good Housekeeping*, Oct. 2016, pp. 111-113.

Newspaper Article (from database)

Palmer, Chris. "Why is Philly's Homicide Rate Going Up?" *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 19 Sept. 2016. *Newspaper Source Plus*, <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=n5h&AN=2W61684373699&site=ehost-live>.

Webpage (without publication date & same website title/publisher name)

"1926-1923: Flowers, Fountains, and Music." *Longwoodgardens*, <https://www.longwoodgardens.org/history/1926-1936>. Accessed 17 Mar. 2017.

Webpage (with publication date)

"Biography of Benjamin Franklin." *USHistory.org*, Independence Hall Association, 2017, <http://www.ushistory.org/franklin/info/index.htm>.

Image

"Reading from the Torah." *Global Connections in the Middle East*, PBS, 2002. <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/globalconnections/mideast/themes/religion/>.

Video Online

Gilbert, Dan. "The Surprising Science of Happiness." *TED*, TED Conferences LLC, Feb. 2004, https://www.ted.com/talks/dan_gilbert_asks_why_are_we_happy.

Television Show

"The Miller's Daughter." *Once Upon a Time*, season 2, episode 16, ABC, 10 Mar. 2013. *Netflix*, www.netflix.com/watch/70152031?trackId=200256157&tctx=0%2C20%2C0974d361-27cd-44de-9c2a-2d9d868b9f64-12120962.

Film

Beowulf. Directed by Thomas Balmes, Universal Studios Home Entertainment, 2010.

Interview

Jamison, Steven. Personal Interview. 19 May 2014.

Basic Formatting Notes for the Works Cited List

Author

- List the author's last name, a comma, and then the rest of the name as it appears in the work. End with a period.
- When the source has two authors, include them in the order they are presented in the work. Reverse the first name as indicated above, follow it with a comma and *and*, then list the second name in normal order.
- It is now acceptable to use online handles, screen names, and pseudonyms in place of authors' names.
- When a source has three or more authors, reverse the name of the first author listed and follow it with a comma and *et al.* ("and others").

Title of Source

- Titles should appear in either quotation marks or italics, depending on the source type.
- Larger or self-contained works such as books, websites, titles of journals, magazines, and newspapers, television series, and albums should be listed in italics.
- Titles of sources that are parts of larger works, like *webpages*, poems in poetry collections, television shows, and articles in magazines, journals, and newspapers.

Title of Container

- Containers are the larger bodies of work that "hold" the source. For example, *Youtube* would be the container for a video you watched on Youtube. A magazine article is part of a magazine. The article is the source, the magazine is the container. A webpage is contained in a website.

Other Contributors

- Include contributors like editors, illustrators, and translators if they are relevant to your research or needed to identify the source. These terms are no longer abbreviated.

Version

- List the edition or version of the source. Edition is abbreviated as *ed.*

Number

- Abbreviations for journal issues and volume numbers are now included as follows: *vol. 34, no. 2*
- Volume numbers of multi-volume works are notated with the abbreviation *vol.* and the number.

Publishers & Publication Date

- Publishers names are provided in full, with any business-associated words such as *Company* omitted. Academic Press abbreviations like *U* and *UP* should still be used.
- Publisher names may be omitted when the work is published by the author or editor, and also for websites that have the same name as their publisher. Websites not involved in producing the works they make available (*Youtube*, *Wordpress*) and Periodicals do not require a publisher listing.
- It is no longer necessary to use *n.d.* when no publication date is given. If publication data is missing, it is simply omitted.

Location

- Page numbers in the works cited list are now preceded by *p.* for individual pages or *pp.* for ranges.
- URLs should be included for all online sources, omitting the *http://* or *https://*
- Use of DOIs (digital object identifiers) is encouraged and preferred versus URLs.

In-Text Citation

When referring to the works of others in the text of your essay or paper, you must use what are known as in-text citations. This in-text citation is a reference that directs the reader back to the full entry in the works cited list. The examples used below correspond to the citations in the following list of works cited.

Stevens 4

Works Cited

Baron, Naomi. "Redefining Reading: The Impact of Digital Communication Media." *PMLA*, vol. 128, no. 1, Jan. 2013, pp. 193-200.

Reading at Risk: A Survey of Literacy Reading in America. National Endowment for the Arts, June 2004. Research Division Report 46.

General rules for using in-text citations:

- Use an in-text citation any time you use a direct quotation from a source *or* paraphrase a source's ideas.
- Citations are placed at the end of the sentence **after** the quotation marks and **before** the period (they are part of the sentence).
- In parentheses, type the author's name followed by a space and the relevant page number(s).

Reading is "just half of literacy. The other half is writing" (Baron 194). One might even suggest that reading is never complete without writing.

While reading may be the core of literacy, literacy can be complete only when reading is accompanied by writing (Baron 194).

When Moishe the Beadle is first introduced in the novel he is accepted because he does not bother anyone and has "mastered the art of rendering himself insignificant, invisible" (Wiesel 10).

- If the author's name appears in the sentence itself you do not have to include it in the citation, but the page number(s) should always appear in the parentheses, not in the text of the sentence.

Wiesel first introduces Moishe the Beadle as an "invisible" character who is accepted because he does not bother anyone and appears "insignificant" (10).

According to Naomi Baron, reading is "just have of literacy. The other half is writing" (194). One might even suggest that reading is never complete without writing.

While reading may be the core of literacy, Naomi Baron argues that literacy can be complete only when reading is accompanied by writing (194).

- If the source does not list an author, use whatever element appears first in the full citation in the works cited list. Typically, this will be the title of the source. A shortened version of the title may be used. Be sure to keep the formatting, for example, italics, from the citation in the in-text citation.

Reading at Risk: A Survey of Literacy Reading in America notes that despite an apparent decline in reading during the same period, "eth number of people doing creative writing—of any genre, not exclusively literary works—increased substantially between 1982 and 2002" (3).

Despite an apparent decline in reading during the same period, "the number of people doing creative writing—of any genre, not exclusively literary works—increased substantially between 1982 and 2002" (*Reading* 3).

- Once the source is cited in a paragraph, if it does not change, then only the page numbers need to change in the remaining citations. If the source changes or goes back and forth, the citations must reflect this. Each paragraph begins anew.

- When citing a work with line numbers, such as poems or plays, use slashes to indicate line breaks and provide the act, line, and scene numbers (not page numbers) in the in-text citation. When line numbers are 100 or higher, only the last two digits of the ending number are given. For use of passages that are more than three lines in length, use a block quotation (see example below).

“Men at some time are masters of their fates. / The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, / But in ourselves, that we are underlings” (Shakespeare 1.2.140-43).

- When quotations are greater than 4 lines of prose (regular text) or 3 lines of verse (poetry), place the quote in a separate block of text on a new line, indented by a half inch and omit quotation marks. Follow as usual with the appropriate in-text citation. Note that with long quotations, the end punctuation is placed after the in-text citation.

After killing Julius Caesar, Brutus defends himself:

If there be any in this assembly, any dear
friend of Caesar's, to him I say that Brutus' love
to Caesar was no less than his. If then that friend
demand why Brutus rose against Caesar, this is my
answer: not that I loved Caesar less, but that I loved
Rome more (3.2.17-22).

Common Knowledge

In-text citations are not required for borrowed information that is considered common knowledge. Common knowledge is “information widely available in reference works, such as basic biographical facts about prominent persons and the dates and circumstances of major historical events. When the facts are in dispute, however, or when your readers may want more information about your topic, it is good practice to document the material you borrow.”

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined by the Modern Language Association as, “presenting another person’s ideas, information, expression, or entire work as one’s own” (6-7). An intellectual offence, plagiarism only results in legal action when copyright infringement is involved. However, the deception involved in plagiarism, an act of intellectual theft, calls into question the writer’s morality, competence, and ability to be original and creative. Students who plagiarize face embarrassment, loss of credibility, and create suspicious, undermine trust, and hampering a healthy and trusting learning environment, not to mention the missed opportunity to learn something new.

According to the MLA Handbook, “Plagiarism can take a number of forms, including buying papers from a service on the Internet, reusing work done by another student, and copying text from published sources without giving credit to those who produced the sources” (7-8). Plagiarism is often committed unintentionally by students who simply don’t understand how to properly document the words and ideas of others’ in their own writing. Students can avoid unintentional plagiarism by taking careful notes, and accurately identifying basic information about borrowed sources according to MLA Style.

How is MLA 8 Different?

To accommodate the vast array of dynamic digital sources available today, MLA 8 has made a major shift in the way sources are cited on the works cited page. The new method is based on a universal citation format that applies to all types of sources, instead of a different set of rules for each source type. Researchers will now follow the same process for citing a website, book, Youtube video, journal article, or any other source. Instead of asking the question, "How do I cite a book?" researchers will now consider, "Who is the author?" and "What is the title?"

Useful Websites

Noodlebib.com – Comprehensive online research organizer that provides MLA & APA citation generator, works cited page formatting, digital notetaking and outline, which assist students with properly synthesizing and citing information and sources. OAHS subscription is accessible from the library website using student district login.

Noodlebib Express (My.noodletools.com/noodlebib/express.php) – free citation generator form that instantly creates a works cited entry for copying and pasting into Works Cited document.

Owl.english.purdue.edu – extensive and user-friendly guide to MLA style and documentation

Dictionary.com – definitions and synonyms; proper spelling

Works Cited

MLA Handbook. 8th ed., Modern Language Association of America, 2016.