

Formatting the First Page of your Paper in MLA style

Goal: This Directed Learning Activity is intended to introduce you to MLA formatting, and will help you become familiar with terms, definitions and applications of the concepts surrounding the topic.

Activities: This portion of the Directed Learning Activity is meant to be done independently. This portion will include activities such as exercises, games, power point presentations, and/or other lessons that show applications of the topic. You should print all materials used and take notes on anything you learn in this Directed Learning Activity.

1. In this portion of the Activities section you will review the terms and definitions introducing you to MLA Formatting. Please proceed to the following link:
http://www.csus.edu/owl/index/mla/mla_format.htm

Next, go to the link titled: OWL's MLA 2009 Formatting and Style Guide, and read the 'MLA Formatting and Style Guide' section: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

2. Below, you have been provided a checklist with all of the guidelines for formatting the first page of your paper. Using an essay you have written, you will check off all of the guidelines you used correctly. For all those that are incorrect, you will need to write a name error, a definition, and what changes need to be made in order to correct the problem. You can write all of this on a separate sheet of paper. You will need all of these materials for you tutoring session.

Checklist for Formatting the First Page of Your Paper:

- a. _____ Do not make a title page for your paper unless specifically requested.
- b. _____ In the upper left-hand corner of the first page, list your name, your instructor's name, the course, and the date. Again, be sure to use double spaced text.
- c. _____ Double space again and center the title. Do not underline, italicize, or place your title in quotation marks; write the title in Title Case (standard capitalization), not in all capital letters.

- d. _____ Use quotation marks and/or italics when referring to other works in your title, just as you would in your text: *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* as Morality Play; Human Weariness in "After Apple Picking."

- e. _____ Create a header in the upper right-hand corner that includes your last name, followed by a space with a page number; number all pages consecutively with Arabic numerals (1, 2, 3, 4, etc.), one-half inch from the top and flush with the right margin. (Note: Your instructor or other readers may ask that you omit last name/page number header on your first page. Always follow instructor guidelines.)

(The above information was taken from the web source: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu>)

Review: With a tutor at the writing center, discuss specific terms, their definitions, and all of the examples you have written. Make sure to be clear about your understanding of the definitions, and the examples you have given. Clarity will be gauged by your use of specific terms you learned during the Activities portion of this Directed Learning Activity. **In order to pass this Directed Learning Activity, you must have completed the above exercise and then you must correctly create and format a sample first page in MLA style in the presence of a tutor on one of the computers in the Writing Center.**