

## MLA Format: An Introduction

### What is MLA?

“The format most often used in the humanities is MLA. It is the system developed by the Modern Language Association” (Gardner, 2009).

### MLA Style Paper General Guidelines

- Use white 8.5 × 11 inch paper.
- Double-space the text.
- Set all margins to one inch on all sides.
- Use 12-point size.
- Use Times New Roman font.
- Leave one space after punctuation marks.
- Indent one half inch for the first line of each paragraph.
- Create a header in the upper right corner at half inch from the top and one inch from the right of the page and list your last name and page number.
- List your name, instructor’s name, the course name and code, and date in the upper left corner of the first page.
- Centre the title with no underlining, quotation marks, bold or italics.

### MLA Format Breaks Down into Two Elements

- 1- **In-Text Citations** “are parenthetical references that follow each quotation, paraphrase, or summary and give the briefest possible information about the source, usually the author’s last name and a page number” (Gardner, 2009).

#### General Tips

- There is no comma between the name and the page number.
- The quotation marks close before the citation.
- The period that ends the sentence is placed after the citation.

- 2- **Works Cited List** “which comes at the end of the paper, gives more detailed information about all sources used” (Gardner, 2009).

#### General Guidelines

- Begin your list of works cited on a new page.
- Centre the heading Works Cited at the top of the page.
- Arrange sources alphabetically, by the last name of the source’s author or by title for anonymous works.
- Double- space the whole list.

### References

Gardner, J. E. (2009). *Writing about literature: a portable guide*. Bedford/St. Martins.