



MLA Formatting and Style Guide

MLA Handbook, 9th Edition
UDM.mywconline.com



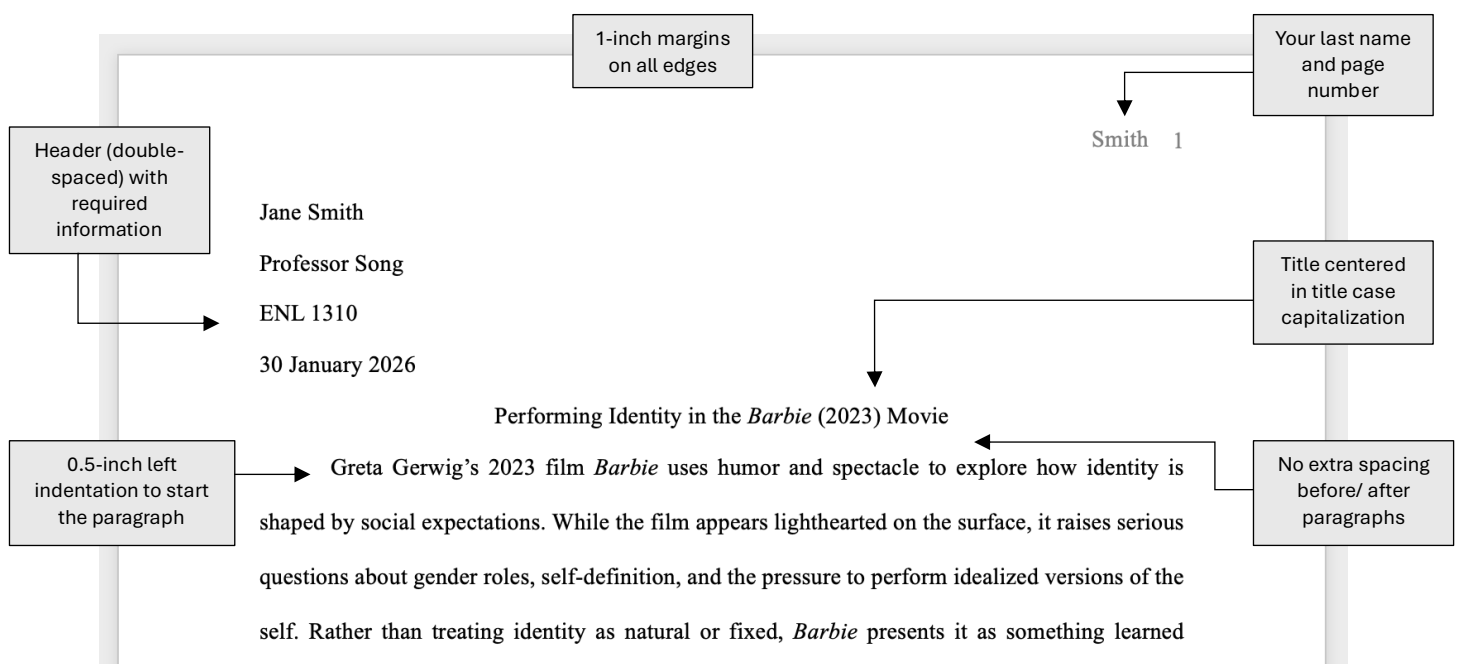
The Writing Center
DETROIT MERCY

General Formatting Requirements

- Margins should be set to 1 inch
- The font should be readable and consistent between 11-13pt in a style, for example Times New Roman or Calibri
- The document should be double-spaced with no extra spacing in between paragraphs
- Your last name and the page number should be right-aligned in the header of each page
- The heading should be left-aligned on the first page
- The title should be in title case capitalization, centered, and placed on its own line after the header
- Each paragraph should begin with the first line left-indented 0.5 inches

Heading and Title

- Your heading should include:
 - ⇒ Your name
 - ⇒ Your instructor's name
 - ⇒ Course
 - ⇒ Date
- Your title should be centered with no special formatting (boldface, underlining) unless required (e.g. book/ movie titles in italics, quotations)



Incorporating Evidence

- When including evidence, you can quote, summarize, or paraphrase your sources
- For short quotations (four or fewer lines of prose), enclose your quote in double quotation marks within your paragraph
- For long quotations (longer than four lines of prose), you must use block quotations
 - ⇒ Include the quote in a free-standing block of text with no quotation marks
 - ⇒ Maintain double-spacing, and use a 0.5-inch indentation for the whole quote
- Whether you are directly quoting, summarizing, or paraphrasing, you must include a citation (see section below)
- Sentence punctuation comes after the parenthetical citation, not within the quote

In-Text Citations

- Citations refer your reader to the sources you used as evidence for your claims
- You must use citations for direct quotes, summaries, and paraphrases
- You can cite sources in-text using parenthetical citations or in-sentence citations
 - The difference between the two is where you state the author's name
- In-text citations are determined by how the source appears in the works cited*

Example #1: short quotation + parenthetical citation

eyes often serve as a means of revealing a person's emotional state. Eyes, in generating tears, provide physical symptoms of emotional reactions; they explicitly externalize a person's internal condition. What is more, in ancient literature, the eyes served as a "doorway of sexual desire" (Godwin 148). Thus, in addition to their implied metonymic relation to her gaze, Ariadne's physical eyes provide an important glimpse into her emotions of passion and misery. Her eyes

Author's last name and page number are provided in parenthesis

Quote is provided and contained within quotation marks

Example #2: block quotation + in-sentence citation

Greeks did, Haraway alters and twists the story of Medusa to explore our modern troubles. Haraway describes the Gorgons as follows:

The Gorgons are powerful winged chthonic entities without a proper genealogy; their reach is lateral and tentacular; they have no settled lineage and no reliable kind (genre, gender), although they are figured and storied as female. In old versions, the Gorgons twine with the Erinyes (Furies), chthonic underworld powers who avenge crimes against the natural order (54).

Haraway reads the Gorgons as complex, tentacular creatures who refuse classification at every level. For Haraway, they are heterogeneous with a blended genealogy, complex ontology, and even an ambiguous gender. Moreover, the Gorgons represent creatures that were demonized and

Author's name is included in the prose that introduces the quote

Quote is provided with no quotation marks, double-spaced, with a 0.5-inch indentation

Page number is given in parentheses; no need to repeat author's last name

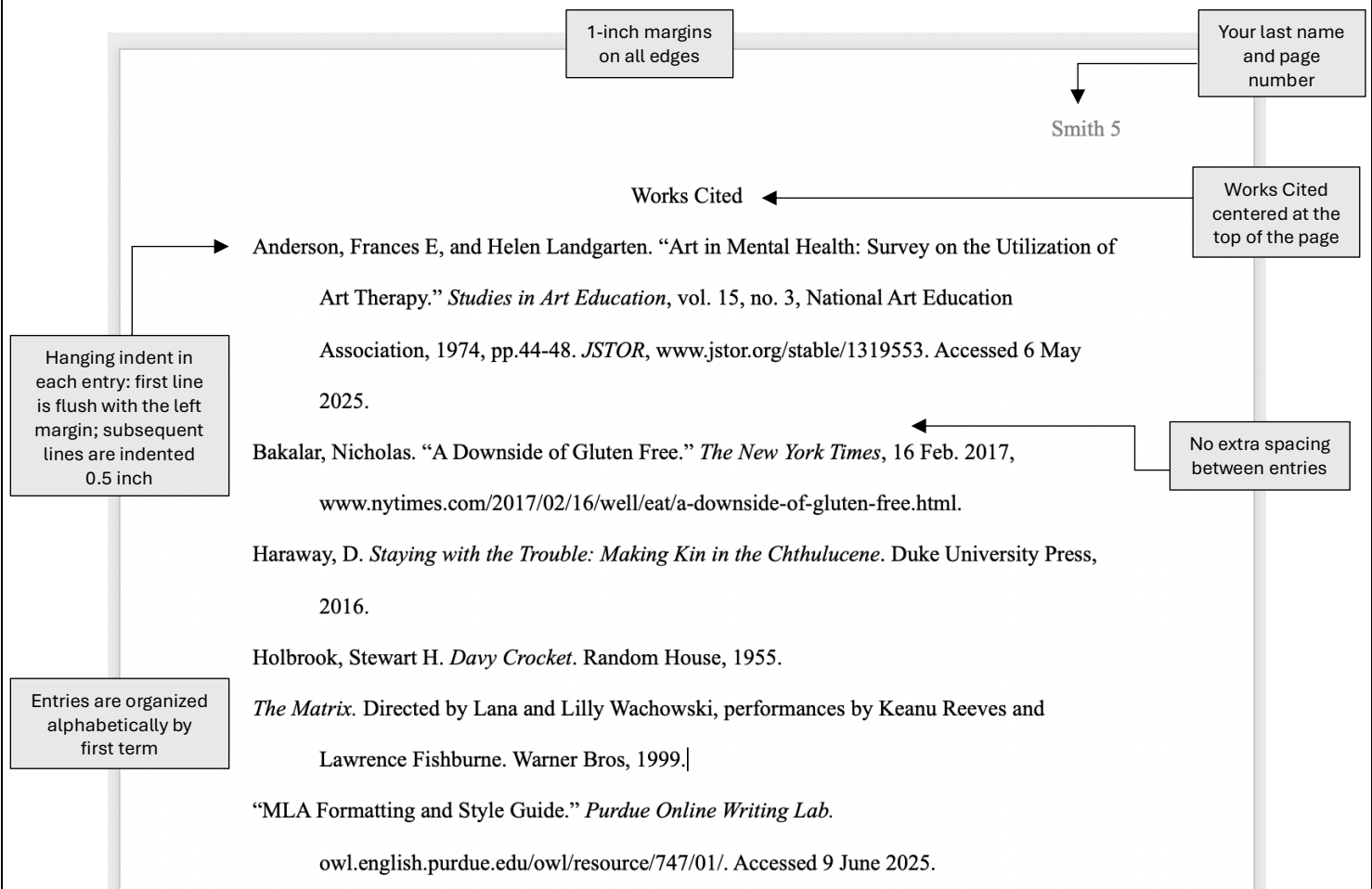
* See the following pages for how to generate in-text parenthetical citations based on entries in your Works Cited

Works Cited List

A *Works Cited* list is the page at the end of an MLA-style paper that shows all the sources you used and referenced in your essay. It gives full publication details for each source so readers can locate the original material. Every source that appears in the *Works Cited* must also be cited in the paper using in-text citations, and vice versa.

General Formatting Requirements

- Margins should be 1 inch
- The font should be the same font you used in the rest of your paper
- Your last name and the page number should be right-aligned in the header
- The title “Works Cited” should be centered and placed on its own line at the top
- The entries should be double-spaced with no extra spacing in between citations
- Each citation should use a hanging indent, meaning the first line of each entry should line up with the left margin with each subsequent line indented 0.5 inches
- Your entries should appear in alphabetical order by first term



Works Cited and In-Text Citations

In-text citations are determined by how the source appears in the works cited. In-text citations reference sources by the first term that appears in their works cited entry. For sources with page numbers (such as books and articles), include the page number in your in-text citation.

In-Text Citation Format

Works Cited Entry Format

Haraway (26).	Book with One Author Haraway, Donna. <i>Staying with the Trouble: Making Kin in the Chthulucene</i> . Duke UP, 2016.
Wiesel (89).	Book with One Author, Translated Wiesel, Elie. <i>Night</i> . Translated by Marion Wiesel, 2nd ed., Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006.
(Wysocki et al. 104).	Book with Three or More Authors Wysocki, Anne Frances, et al. <i>Writing New Media: Theory and Applications for Expanding the Teaching of Composition</i> . Utah State UP, 2004.
(Anderson and Landgarten 4).	Article from a Journal in an Online Database Anderson, Frances E, and Helen Landgarten. "Art in Mental Health: Survey on the Utilization of Art Therapy." <i>Studies in Art Education</i> , vol. 15, no. 3, National Art Education Association, 1974, pp. 44-48. <i>JSTOR</i> , www.jstor.org/stable/1319553 . Accessed 6 May 2025.
("MLA Formatting").	Article with No Named Author or a Page on a Website (no author) "MLA Formatting and Style Guide." <i>Purdue Online Writing Lab</i> . owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/ . Accessed 9 June 2025.
("Weird Guy").	"Weird Guy from Two Jobs Ago Still Liking Woman's Photos on Facebook." <i>The Onion</i> . 23 May 2013. http://www.theonion.com/article/weird-guy-from-2-jobs-ago-still-liking-womans-photo-32499 . Accessed 9 June 2025.
(<i>The Matrix</i>).	Film/ Movie <i>The Matrix</i> . Directed by Lana and Lilly Wachowski, performances by Keanu Reeves and Laurence Fishburne. Warner Bros, 1999.
(Bakalar).	Newspaper Article (online) Bakalar, Nicholas. "A Downside of Gluten Free." <i>The New York Times</i> , 16 Feb. 2017, www.nytimes.com/2017/02/16/well/eat/a-downside-of-gluten-free.html .
(Patnaude and Cotaga).	Newspaper Article (print version) Patnaude, Art, and Olga Cotaga. "U.K. Housing Downturn Slams Real-Estate Brokers." <i>The Wall Street Journal</i> , 15 March 2017, p. B10.
(Voltaire 223).	Text within a Text (e.g. article in edited volume, chapter in anthology, piece from collection) Voltaire. "On English Commerce." <i>The Western Tradition</i> , vol. 2, written by Eugen Weber, 5th ed., D.C. Heath and Company, 1995, pp. 222-223.