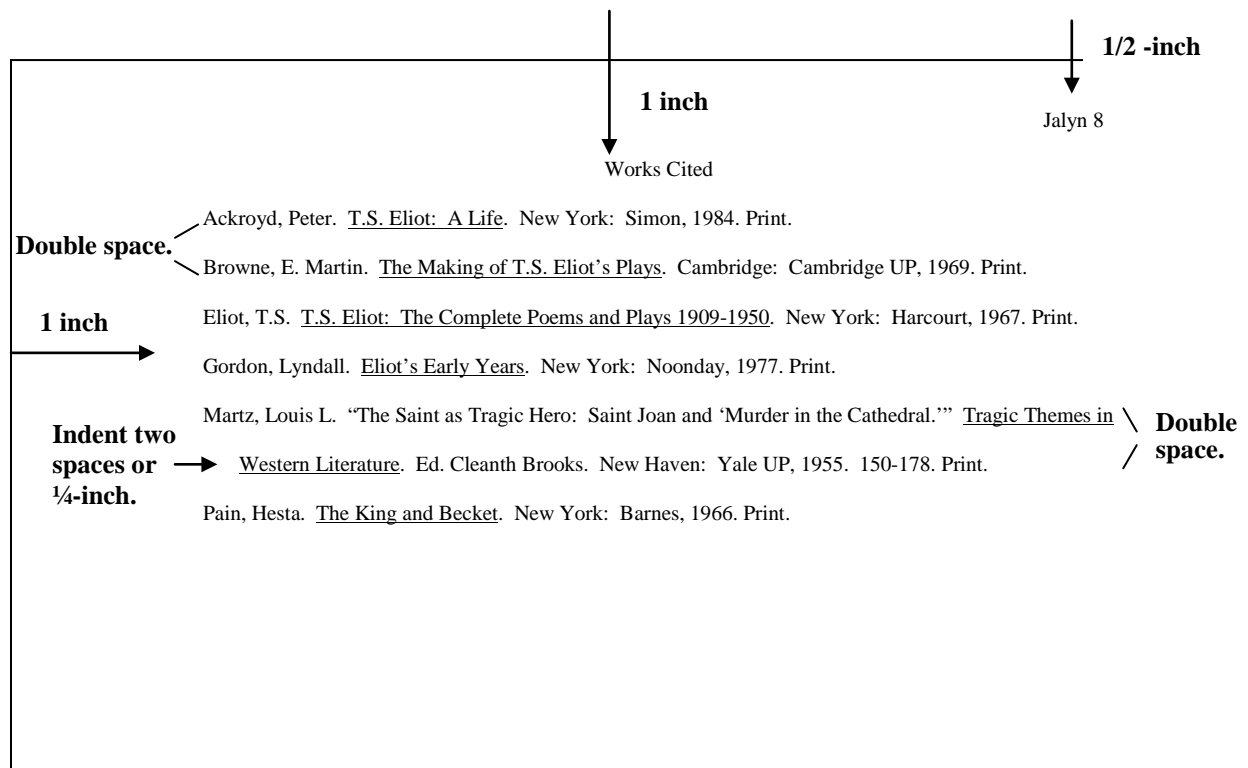


## MLA Method in Brief

A research paper is a paper which uses any information you must get from a source other than yourself. So, if you use information from a piece of literature, speech, on-line source, you must tell from where the information came. The method currently being used at most colleges and LCHS is the MLA method (Modern Language Association). The writer must cite in two areas of the paper: 1) within the text itself (called parenthetical notation/citation) and 2) at the end in a “Works Cited” page.

<b>1 inch</b> ↓	<i>*Use standard 10-12 point font</i> <i>*Double space</i> <i>*No cover page</i>	<b>1/2 -inch</b> ↓
Ann Jalyn  Sommers <i>[Instructor's Last Name]</i>  English 12B  18 January 2011	<i>Title – centered, no bold or large type.</i>  Becket: The Man Eliot Ignored	<i>[Author's last name and the page number go in the top right-hand corner of every page.]</i>  Jalyn 1
<b>Indent two spaces or 1/4--inch*</b> →	<p>There is no doubt that T.S. Eliot has used some traditionally accepted dramatic techniques to achieve the horror of “Murder in the Cathedral.” The chorus, so reminiscent of the tragic Greek choruses of Sophocles, had actors who were representatives of the common people—innocent, suffering, and often abandoned by their ruler. Eliot’s chorus also imparts the feelings of the people of Canterbury with their “final fear which none understands” (Eliot 181). The actual name of the actors, “tempters” and “priests”, their action and echoes the medieval morality play “Everyman.” These techniques and more Eliot has borrowed to give his play the ring of authenticity. E. Martin Browne, the first director of Eliot’s play, agrees Eliot uses a style allied with those of Greece and medieval Europe. He believes Eliot’s purpose was “to celebrate the cult associated with a scared spot and display the story of its origin” (37).</p> <p>Mr. Browne is all too generous with his comments. There is no doubt that Eliot was a well-read and talented poet. But while effective in creating an audience sympathetic to the power-driven Becket, these proven techniques are attempts to Eliot to dazzle us, overpower us with tradition and emotion, and thus obscure the true story of this “saint.” What Eliot chooses to ignore in “Murder in the Cathedral” is the true point and purpose of Thomas Becket’s martyrdom. Browne states that Eliot thoroughly researched Becket prior to writing “Murder,” yet how could a man who was known for his intelligence so obviously ignore some basic aspects of Becket’s life while misrepresenting others? (42). Louis L. Martz in <u><i>Tragic Themes in Western Literature</i></u> states the drama of “Murder in the Cathedral” is based upon deliberate manipulation of the elements to convince the audience (156). Amen.</p>	<b>1 inch</b> ←
<b>1 inch</b> →	<b>1 inch</b> ↑	
<i>*[Set tab at second ruler marking (1/4").]</i>		



*How to cite other commonly used sources:*

### Article in an Anthology

Double space. /

Grim, Edward. "The Murder of Thomas Becket, 29 December 1170 in Canterbury Cathedral, on the Orders of Henry II." Eyewitness to History. Ed. John Carey. Cambridge: Harvard UP, 1987. 30-35. Print.

### Interviews

Diamond, Carol. Telephone Interview. 27 Dec. 1988.

Ellison, Ralph. "Invisible Man." Interview. By James Alan McPherson. Atlantic Dec. 1970: 45-60.

### Material accessed from a Database

Angier, Natalie. "Chemists Learn Why Vegetables Are Good for You." New York Times 13 Apr. 1993, late ed.: C1. New York Times OnDisc. CD-ROM. UMI-Proquest. Web. 5 Nov. 1995. CD-Rom.

### Material accessed through a Computer Service

Guidelines for Family Television Viewing. Urbana: ERIC Clearinghouse on Elementary and Early Childhood Educ., 1990. ERIC. Web. 14 Jan. 1994.

### Material accessed through a Web site

An entry for a nonperiodical publication on the Web usually contains most of the following components, in sequence:

1. Name of author, compiler, director, editor, narrator, performer, or translator of the work
2. Title of the work
3. Title of the overall Web site (italicized)
4. Version or edition used
5. Publisher or sponsor of the site; if not available, use *N.p.*
6. Date of publication (day, month, and year, as available); if nothing is available, use *n.d.*
7. Medium of publication (Web)
8. Date of access (day, month, and year)

Tyre, Peg. "Standardized Tests in College?" Newsweek. Newsweek. 16 Nov. 2007. Web. 15 May 2008.

## The Basics of MLA Formatting

### Titles of Large Works

In general, underline or *italicize* the titles of works published independently. Titles to be underlined include the names of books, plays, long poems published as books, pamphlets, periodicals (newspapers, magazines, and journals), films, radio and television programs, compact discs, audiocassettes, record albums, ballets, operas and other long musical compositions, paintings, works of sculpture, ships, aircraft, and spacecraft.

The Awakening (book)

The Importance of Being Earnest (play)

*The Waste Land* (long or epic poem published as a book)

*New Jersey Driver Manual* (pamphlet)

Wall Street Journal (newspaper)

*It's a Wonderful Life* (film)

### Titles of Shorter Works

Use quotation marks for the titles of works published within larger works. Such titles include the names of articles, essays, short stories, short poems, chapters of books, individual episodes of television and radio programs, and short musical compositions (e.g., songs). Also use quotation marks for unpublished works, such as lectures and speeches.

"Rise in Aid to Education Is Proposed" (newspaper article)

"Sources of Energy in the Next Century" (magazine article)

"Etruscan" (encyclopedia article)

"The Fiction of Langston Hughes" (essay in a book)

"The Lottery" (short story)

"Kubla Khan" (poem)

### Quoting Sources

Quotations are effective in research papers when used selectively. Quote only words, phrases, lines, and passages that are particularly interesting, vivid, unusual, or apt, and keep all quotations as brief as possible. Over-quotation can bore your readers and might lead them to conclude that you are neither an original thinker nor a skillful writer. The accuracy of quotations in research writing is extremely important. They must reproduce original sources exactly. Unless indicated in brackets or parentheses, changes must not be made in the spelling, capitalization, or interior punctuation of the source. You must construct a clear, grammatically correct sentence that allows you to introduce or incorporate a quotation with complete accuracy. Alternatively, you may paraphrase the original and quote only fragments, which may be easier to integrate into the text. If you change a quotation in any way, make the alteration clear to the reader, following the rules and recommendations below. ***In the interest of space, the following examples are single spaced not double spaced as MLA requires.***

### Short Quotes (4 lines or less)

If a prose quotation runs no more than four lines and requires no special emphasis, put it in quotation marks and incorporate it into the text.

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times,” wrote Charles Dickens of the eighteenth century.

You need not always reproduce complete sentences. Sometimes you may want to quote just a word or phrase as part of your sentence.

For Charles Dickens the eighteenth century was both “the best of times” and “the worst of times.”

You may put a quotation at the beginning, middle, or end of your sentence or, for the sake of variety or better style, divide it by your own words.

Joseph Conrad writes of the company manager in *Heart of Darkness*, “He was obeyed, yet he inspired neither love nor fear, nor even respect.”

If a quotation ending a sentence requires a parenthetical reference, place the sentence period after the reference.

For Charles Dickens the eighteenth century was both “the best of times” and “the worst of times” (35).

### Long Quotes (more than four lines)

If a quotation runs to more than four lines in your paper, set it off from your text by beginning a new line, indenting one inch (or ten spaces if you are using a typewriter) from the left margin, and typing it double-spaced, without adding quotation marks. A colon generally introduces a quotation displayed in this way, though sometimes the context may require a different mark of punctuation or none at all. If you quote only a single paragraph or part of one, do not indent the first line more than the rest. A parenthetical reference to a prose quotation set off from the text follows the last line of the quotation.

At the conclusion of *Lord of the Flies*, Ralph and the other boys realize the horror of their actions:

The tears began to flow and sobs shook him. He gave himself up to them now for the first time on the island; great, shuddering spasms of grief that seemed to wrench his whole body. His voice rose under the black smoke before the burning wreckage of the island; and infected by that emotion, the other little boys began to shake and sob too. (186)

## Quoting Poetry

If you quote part or all of a single line of verse that does not require special emphasis, put it in quotation marks within your text. You may also incorporate two or three lines in this way, using a slash with a space on each side (*I*) to separate them.

Bradstreet frames the poem with a sense of mortality: “All things within this fading world hath end” (1).

Reflecting on the “incident” in Baltimore, Cullen concludes, “Of all the things that happened there / That’s all that I remember” (11-12).

Verse quotations of more than three lines should begin on a new line. Unless the quotation involves unusual spacing, indent each line one inch (or ten spaces on a typewriter) from the left margin and double-space between lines, adding no quotation marks that do not appear in the original. A parenthetical reference for a verse quotation set off from the text follows the last line of the quotation (as in quotations of prose); a parenthetical reference that will not fit on the line should appear on a new line, flush with the right margin of the page.

Elizabeth Bishop’s “In the Waiting Room” is rich in evocative detail:

*It was winter. It got dark early. The waiting room  
was full of grown-up people, arctics and overcoats.  
lamps and magazines. (6-10)*

## Citing and Attribution

In MLA documentation style, you acknowledge your sources by keying brief parenthetical citations in your text to an alphabetical list of works that appears at the end of the paper. The parenthetical citation that concludes the following sentence is typical of MLA style.

Ancient writers attributed the invention of the monochord to Pythagoras, who lived in the sixth century BC (Marcuse 197).

The citation “(Marcuse 197)” tells readers that the information in the sentence was derived from page 197 of a work by an author named Marcuse. If readers want more information about this source, they can turn to the works-cited list, where, under the name Marcuse, they would find the following information.

Marcuse, Sibyl. *A Survey of Musical Instruments*. New York: Harper, 1975. Print.

On a separate page, after the text of your paper, center and type the phrase Works Cited. Under this list the works mentioned or quoted from in the paper, arranging them alphabetically by the first word of entry.

—Taken Professor Dave Madden, California State University, Sacramento

**For Citing Additional Common Sources as Television, as Sound Recording, a Film, a Musical Score, a Work of Visual Art, or a Map, etc. see pages 193-212 in the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (7<sup>th</sup> ed.).**

**Suggested Web sites to aid in Producing a MLA Works Cited Page:**

- EasyBib—[www.easybib.com/](http://www.easybib.com/)
- Modern Language Association—[www.mla.org/](http://www.mla.org/)
- Purdue OWL: MLA Formatting and Style Guide—[owl.english.purdue.edu/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/)
- Study Guide and Strategies—[www.studygs.net/citation/mla.htm](http://www.studygs.net/citation/mla.htm)

*Formatting Issue: If you are using Microsoft Office 2007, you need to make some changes in your formatting in order to have the proper spacing. Go to “Page Layout” and click on it. Under “Spacing” change After 10 pt. to 0.*

## Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using another person's thoughts or expressions without citing the source. Joseph Gibaldi in MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers states that "Plagiarism then, constitutes intellectual theft and often carries severe penalties, ranging from failure in a course to expulsion from school" (51).

"Often plagiarism in student writing is often unintentional, as when an elementary school pupil, assigned to do a report on a certain topic, goes home and copies down, word for word, everything on the subject in an encyclopedia. Unfortunately, some students continue to use such 'research methods' in high school and even in college without realizing that these practices constitute plagiarism. At all times during research and writing, guard against the possibility of inadvertent plagiarism by keeping careful notes that distinguish between your musings and thoughts and the material you gather from others" (Gibaldi 51).

"In writing your research paper...you must document everything that you borrow—not only direct quotations and paraphrases but also information and ideas. Of course, common sense as well as ethics should determine what you document...you must indicate the source of any appropriated material that readers might otherwise mistake for your own. If you have any doubt about whether or not you are committing plagiarism, cite your source or sources" (Gibaldi 59).

"Finally, two issues related to plagiarism do not deal with outside sources. The first arises when a student submits in a course a paper done for a previous course. Although obviously not the same as stealing someone else's ideas, this practice nonetheless qualifies as a kind of self-plagiarism and constitutes another form of cheating. If you want to rework a paper that you prepared for another course, ask your current instructor for permission to do so" (Gibaldi 59).

"The other issue concerns collaborative work, such as a group project you carry out with other students. Joint participation in research and writing is common and, in fact, encouraged in many courses and in many professions, and it does not constitute plagiarism provided that credit is given for all contributions. One way to give credit, if roles were clearly demarcated or were unequal, is to state exactly who did what. Another way, especially if roles and contributions were merged and truly shared, is to acknowledge all concerned equally. Ask your instructor for advice if you are not certain how to acknowledge collaboration" (Gibaldi 59).

*Refer to Chapter 2, "Plagiarism and Academic Honesty" [pages 51-61 in the MLA Handbook], if you have questions or concerns.*

### Works Cited

Gibaldi, Joseph. MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. 7<sup>th</sup> ed. New York:

MLA, 2009.