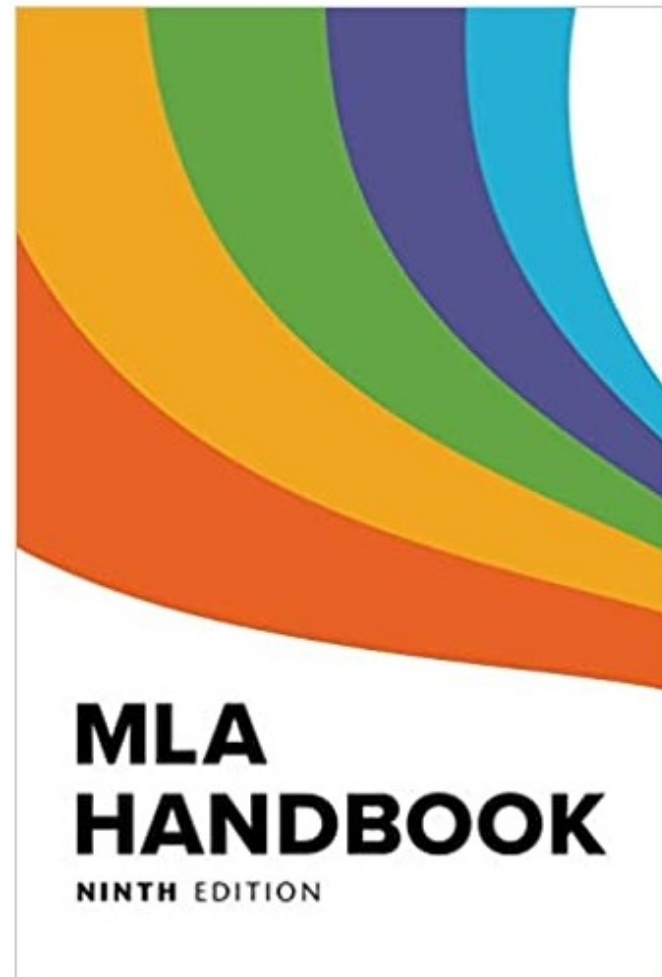


MLA Documentation Tutorial

How to Cite Using MLA Style



What is MLA?

- MLA = **Modern Language Association**
- Provides a “universal set of guidelines” for citing sources across all format types
- “MLA style” refers to a system of citing research sources
- MLA 9th edition published in April 2021



Why Should I Cite?

1. Citing identifies sources used in a research paper or project
2. It gives credit to those researchers, authors, and writers whose words or ideas you borrow, acknowledging their role in shaping your research
3. It allows others to follow-up on or retrieve this material
4. To avoid charges of plagiarism

What is Plagiarism?

Plagiarism is:

- The unacknowledged use or appropriation of another person's words or ideas
- A form of cheating or stealing
- A serious academic offense

*When you borrow words or ideas from sources to support your argument or research, you **MUST** give proper credit. By crediting your sources, you avoid plagiarism. If you do not cite a source (intentionally or unintentionally), you are guilty of plagiarism.



Ci·ta·tion

When
Should
I cite?

- Many students plagiarize unintentionally. Remember, whenever you summarize, paraphrase or quote another author's material you must properly credit your source.
- If you are using another person's IDEA, you must also cite your source!



How Do I Cite?



There are two parts to citing according to MLA style:

1. Brief in-text citations (often in parentheses) within the body of your essay or paper
2. List of full citations in the “Works Cited” page at the end of your paper

Note: *Sources cited in the text (i.e., the paper) must appear in the “Works Cited” page. Conversely, each entry in the “Works Cited” page must be cited in the text.*



In-Text Citations

When citing sources in the text or the body of your paper, include: 1) the author's LAST NAME and 2) the PAGE NUMBER. For example: (Wasser 201)

Place the parenthetical reference at the end of the sentence BEFORE the punctuation mark.

Bedwetting emissions have been determined to consist mostly of two parts hydrogen to one part oxygen, plus assorted diurnal chemicals (Wasser 201).



In-Text Citations, cont.

When the author's name appears as part of your sentence (known as a “signal phrase”), do not use it again in the parenthetical citation. Just give the page number:

Wasser argues that bedwetting is ultimately a genetically predisposed behavior (201).

In-Text Citations, cont.

When there are two authors, name both authors every time their work is referenced in your paper:

- Among epidemiological samples, Selbst and Tikling found that early onset social anxiety disorder results from adverse parental responses to bedwetting (18).
- The study also showed that there was a high rate of alcohol and drug abuse associated with unresolved bedwetting issues (Selbst and Tikling 24).

Other Citation Possibilities – 3 or More Authors

When there are 3 or more authors, use the first author's last name and "et al." for all the others. For ex:

In work with the Human Genome Project, Selbst et al. have identified the unique gene that contributes to bedwetting propensity (176).

In work with the Human Genome Project, a unique gene that contributes to bedwetting propensity have been identified (Selbst et al., 176).



Other Citation Possibilities – Organization as an Author or Unknown Author

If the author is a group (e.g., corporation, association, government agency), use the entire name in the in-text citation. For ex:

According to government figures, boys are 35% more likely across the socio-economic spectrum than girls to wet their beds (National Institute of Mental Health 22-23).

When a work has no identified author, cite the first few words of the title with quotations marks around it. For ex:

Bedwetters also wet couches (“IKEA Report” 115).

Other Citation Possibilities, 2 or More Sources & Direct Quotations

When referring to more than one source in your in-text citation, place them alphabetically, separated by a semicolon.

Primary enuresis in young children is the expression of auto-erotic pleasure (Freud 191; Jung 95).

When directly quoting a specific part of a source, enclose within double quotation marks. Punctuation marks such as periods, commas, and semicolons should appear after the parenthetical citation.

In a letter to Freud, Ferenczi wrote, “I believe that syphilis leads to erythrophobia only in those people who in their childhood had to energetically suppress their rage toward their parents because of unjust punishment” (Brabant et al. 271).

Jung establishes the significance of the father in the development of enuresis in young children (ch. 3).*

**E-books and other web sources may not include page number in which case chapter number or other location element can be provided*

Other Citation Possibilities, Electronic Sources

Treat electronic sources the same as print sources. Direct quotations from e-sources which don't have page numbers are referenced by paragraph or heading and paragraph number (if available).

Eiberg et al. concluded in a Danish study that “nocturnal enuresis, or nightly bedwetting in children more than seven years of age affects about 10% of seven-year-old children, with a wide range of frequencies between populations” (par. 4).

A recent Italian study found that “the prevalence of enuresis was higher when the child was from a family of low socio-economic status despite the child's age group” (Chiozza et al., “Results,” par. 3).

Long (Block) Quotations

If your direct quotation is 40 words or more, it is considered to be a long quote and must be written as a free standing “block.” This means each line of your quotation must be indented 0.5 inch from the left margin without the use of quotations marks.

Long Quotations

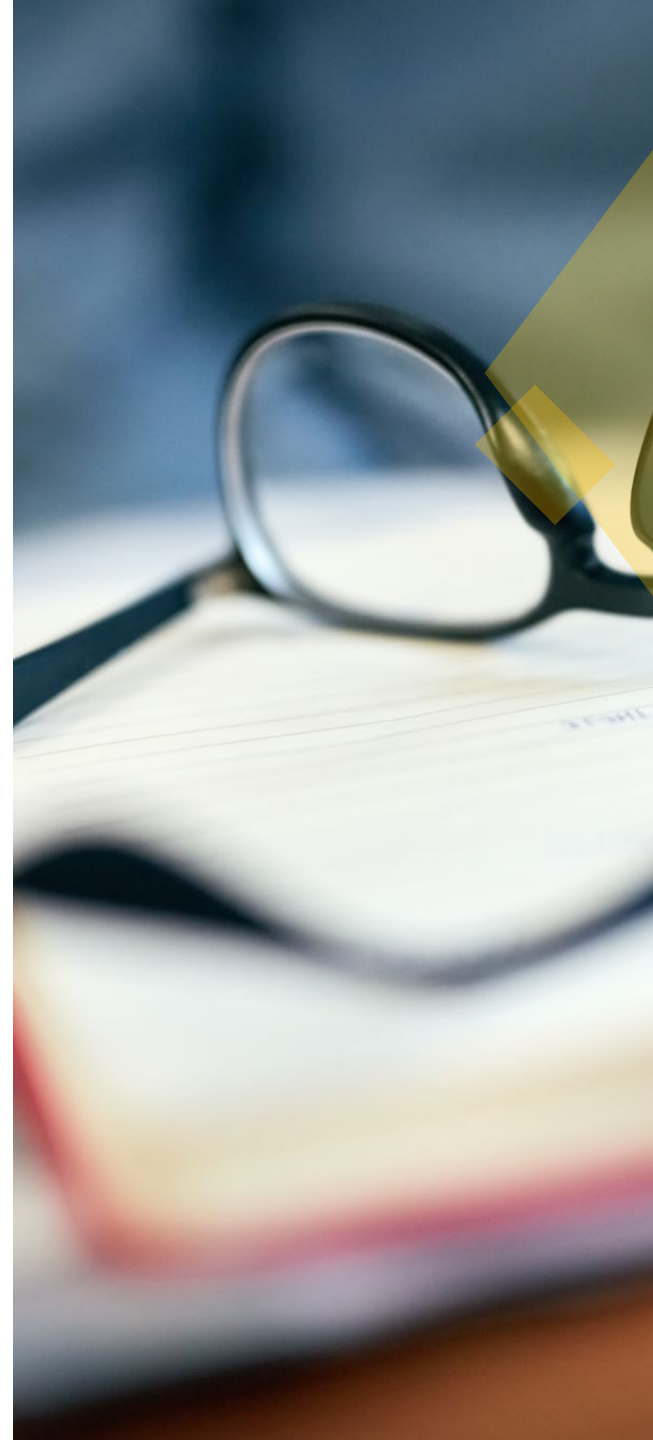
Block quote example

Although Brontë lived an isolated life, she writes about human emotion with remarkable insight, as exemplified by Heathcliff's impassioned speech:

Catherine Earnshaw, may you not rest as long as I am living; you said I killed you – haunt me, then! The murdered DO haunt their murderers, I believe. I know that ghosts HAVE wandered on earth. Be with me always – take any form – drive me mad! only DO not leave me in this abyss, where I cannot find you! Oh, God! it is unutterable! I CANNOT live without my life! I CANNOT live without my soul! (Brontë, 1847, 268)

Works Cited Page

- The “Works Cited” page appears at the end of your paper on its own page.
- Everything you referenced or “cited” in your text must be listed in your “Works Cited” page.
- Conversely, everything you list in the “Works Cited” page must be referenced in the body of your paper.
- The “Works Cited” page provides the information needed for a reader to find and retrieve any source used in your paper.



Sample "Works Cited" page (MLA, 9th ed.)

Angeli 9

Works Cited

The Works Cited page is a list of all the sources cited in your paper.

The Works Cited page begins on a new page. Center the title "Works Cited" without underlining, bolding, or italicizing it. If there is only one entry, title this page "Work Cited."

MLA now requires only the publisher, and not the city of publication. The 8th edition also does not require sources to have a publication marker, (such as "Print").

If a source has three or more authors, only the first one shown in the source is given. It is followed by *et al.*

If a print source does not list a publisher and you can infer who the publisher is, place the publisher's name in brackets.

Allen, R.L. *The American Farm Book; or Compend of American Agriculture; Being a Practical Treatise on Soils, Manures, Draining, Irrigation, Grasses, Grain, Roots, Fruits, Cotton, Tobacco, Sugar Cane, Rice, and Every Staple Product of the United States with the Best Methods of Planting, Cultivating, and Preparation for Market.* Saxton, 1849.

Baker, Gladys L., et al. *Century of Service: The First 100 Years of the United States Department of Agriculture.* [Federal Government], 1996.

Danhof, Clarence H. *Change in Agriculture: The Northern United States, 1820-1870.* Harvard UP, 1969.

Demaree, Albert Lowther. *The American Agricultural Press 1819-1860.* Columbia UP, 1941.

Drown, William, and Solomon Drown. *Compendium of Agriculture or the Farmer's*

Sample "Works Cited" page (MLA, 9th ed.)

by *et al.*

Drown, William, and Solomon Drown. *Compendium of Agriculture or the Farmer's*

name in brackets.

Guide, in the Most Essential Parts of Husbandry and Gardening; Compiled from the Best American and European Publications, and the Unwritten Opinions of Experienced Cultivators. Field, 1824.

MLA now requires URLs (when possible) when citing online sources. Omit "http://" from the address. The date of access is optional, but be sure to include it whenever possible, since online works can be changed or removed at any time.

"Historical Census Browser." *University of Virginia Library*, 2007,

→ www.mapserver.lib.virginia.edu/. Accessed 6 Dec. 2008.

Hurt, R. Douglas. *American Agriculture: A Brief History*. Iowa State UP, 1994.

Lorain, John. *Nature and Reason Harmonized in the Practice of Husbandry*. Carey, 1825.

"Morrill Land Grant Act of 1862." *Prairie View A&M*, 2003. www.pvamu.edu/

[library/about-the-library/history-of-the-library-at-prairie-view/1890-land-grant-history/](http://www.pvamu.edu/library/about-the-library/history-of-the-library-at-prairie-view/1890-land-grant-history/). Accessed 6 Dec. 2008.

List the title of the source in quotation marks, and the title of the container in italics, followed by a comma and the date of publication. Since this is an online source, include the URL and date of access.

Angeli 10

Nicholson, John. *The Farmer's Assistant; Being a Digest of All That Relates to Agriculture and the Conducting of Rural Affairs; Alphabetically Arranged and Adapted for the United States*. Warner, 1820.

General Tips: Print Resources

Author's last name first, then his first name abbreviated

Camplone, James.

If two authors, order the authors in the same way as presented in the book. Start with last name, first name followed by first name and last name.

Schulman, Paula and Neal Johnson. [LN, FN and FN LN]

If three or more authors, list only first author followed by a comma and “et al.”

Kim, Anne, et al.

Titles of books, periodicals, magazines, and newspapers are italicized & capitalized (i.e., title casing – capitalization of all words except articles, conjunctions and prepositions).

[BOOK] *Water World: Enuresis, the Wet and Dry of It.*

[PERIODICAL] *American Journalism Review*

[Newspaper] *The Los Angeles Times*

More Tips: Print Resources with Editors as Authors & Book by Corporate Authors

Editors as authors

Baron, Sabrina Alcorn, et al., editors. *Agent of Change: Print Culture Studies after Elizabeth L. Eisenstein*. U of Massachusetts Press, 2007.

Holland, Merlin and Rupert Hart-Davis, editors. *The Complete Letters of Oscar Wilde*. 1st ed., Henry Holt, 2000.

Publication by a corporate author

Congressional Budget Justification. "Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs." *US Department of State* (2016).

United Nations. *Consequences of Rapid Population Growth in Developing Countries*. Taylor and Francis, 1991.

General Tips: Periodicals

- Periodicals include magazines, newspapers, and scholarly journals. Works cited entries for periodical sources include three main elements—the author of the article, the title of the article, and information about the magazine, newspaper, or journal.
- Below is the generic citation for periodicals using the MLA style.

Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Journal*, Volume, Issue, Year, pages.

Examples of Periodicals

Article in a Magazine

Poniewozik, James. "TV Makes a Too-Close Call." *Time*, 20 Nov. 2000, pp. 70-71.

Article in a Newspaper

Krugman, Andrew. "Fear of Eating." *New York Times*, late ed., 21 May 2007, p. A1.

Anonymous Article

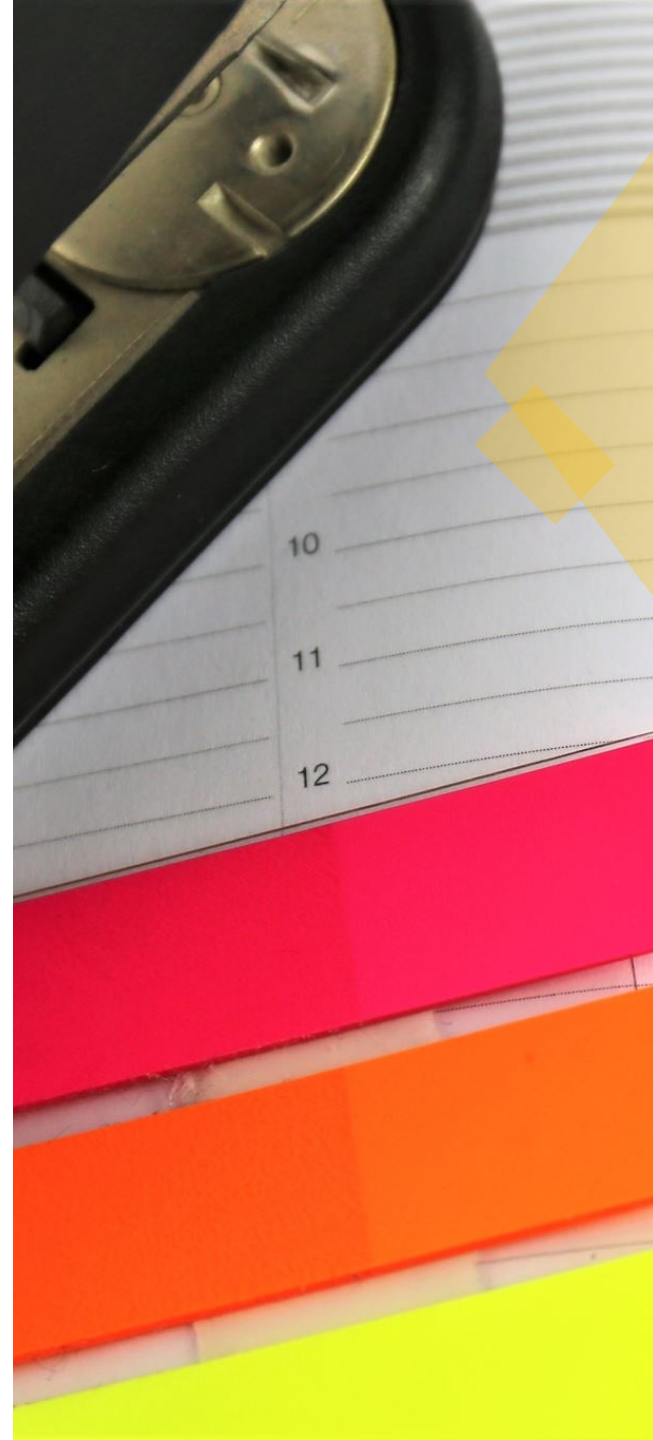
"Business: Global Warming's Boom Town; Tourism in Greenland." *The Economist*, 26 May 2007, p. 82.

Article in a Journal

Bagchi, Alaknanda. "Conflicting Nationalisms: The Voice of the Subaltern in Mahasweta Devi's *Bashai Tudu*." *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*, vol. 15, no. 1, 1996, pp. 41-50.

General Tips: Electronic Sources

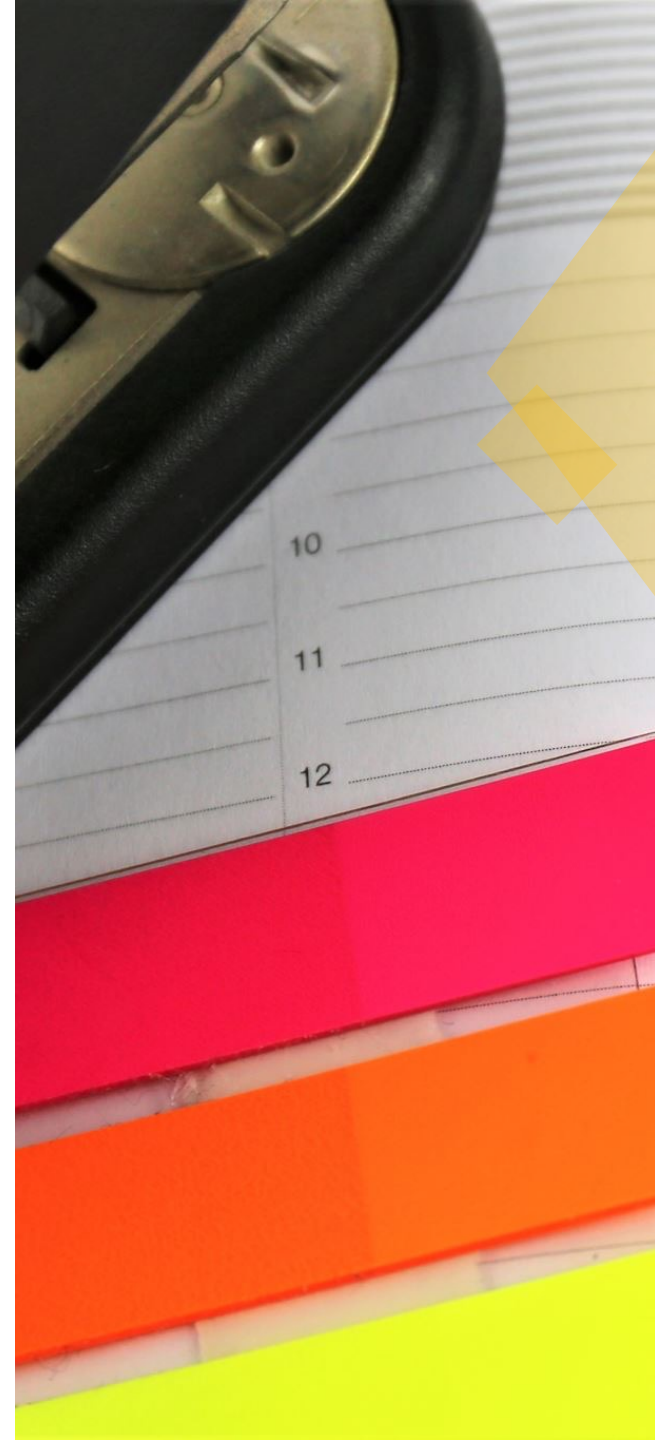
- Online information can change or disappear; hence, it is always a good idea to keep personal copies of important electronic information whenever possible. Downloading or even printing key documents ensures you have a stable backup. You can also use the Bookmark function in your web browser in order to build an easy-to-access reference.
- Include a URL or web address to help readers locate your sources. Because web addresses are not static (i.e., they change often), MLA encourages the use of citing containers such as Youtube, JSTOR, or Netflix in order to easily access and verify sources.
- Many scholarly journal articles found in databases include a DOI (digital object identifier). If a DOI is available, cite the DOI number instead of the URL.



General Tips: Electronic Sources

Here are some common features you should try to find before citing electronic sources in MLA style. Not every web page will provide all of the following information. However, collect as much of the following information as possible:

- Author and/or editor names (if available); last names first.
- "Article name in quotation marks."
- *Title of the website, project, or book in italics.*
- Any version numbers available, including editions (ed.), revisions, posting dates, volumes (vol.), or issue numbers (no.).
- Publisher information, including the publisher name and publishing date.
- Take note of any page numbers (p. or pp.) or paragraph numbers (par. or pars.).
- DOI (if available, precede it with "<https://doi.org/>"), otherwise a URL (without the <https://>) or permalink.
- Date you accessed the material (Date Accessed).



Examples of Electronic Sources

Online Content with author(s)

Dolby, Nadine. "Research in Youth Culture and Policy: Current Conditions and Future Directions." *Social Work and Society: The International Online-Only Journal*, vol. 6, no. 2, 2008, www.socwork.net/sws/article/view/60/362. Accessed 20 May 2009.

Bernstein, Mark. "10 Tips on Writing the Living Web." *A List Apart: For People Who Make Websites*, 16 Aug. 2002, www.alistapart.com/article/writeliving. Accessed 4 May 2019.

Page on a Website

"Athlete's Foot - Topic Overview." *WebMD*, 25 Sept. 2020, www.webmd.com/skin-problems-and-treatments/tc/athletes-foot-topic-overview.

Electronic Books

- Citations for e-books closely resemble those for physical books. Simply indicate that the book in question is an e-book by putting the term "e-book" in the "version" slot of the MLA template (i.e., after the author, the title of the source, the title of the container, and the names of any other contributors).

Silva, Paul J. *How to Write a Lot: A Practical Guide to Productive Academic Writing*. E-book, American Psychological Association, 2007.

Machiavelli, Niccolo. *The Prince*, translated by W. K. Marriott, Kindle ed., Library of Alexandria, 2018.



Examples of Other Electronic Sources

E-MAIL (INCLUDING E-MAIL INTERVIEWS)

Neyhart, David. "Re: Online Tutoring." Received by Joe Barbato, 1 Dec. 2016.

A LISTSERV, DISCUSSION GROUP, OR BLOG POSTING

Salmar1515 [Sal Hernandez]. "Re: Best Strategy: Fenced Pastures vs. Max Number of Rooms?" *BoardGameGeek*, 29 Sept. 2008, boardgamegeek.com/thread/343929/best-strategy-fenced-pastures-vs-max-number-rooms. Accessed 5 Apr. 2019.

A YOUTUBE VIDEO

"8 Hot Dog Gadgets put to the Test." *YouTube*, uploaded by Crazy Russian Hacker, 6 June 2016, www.youtube.com/watch?v=WBlpjSEtELs.



MLA Standard Formatting

- Double-space the text of your paper and use a legible font (e.g., Times New Roman). The font size should be 12 pt.
- Leave only one space after periods or other punctuation marks (unless otherwise prompted by your instructor).
- Set the margins of your document to 1 inch on all sides.
- Indent the first line of each paragraph one half-inch from the left margin. MLA recommends the use of the “Tab” key as opposed to pushing the space bar five times.
- Create a header that numbers all pages consecutively in the upper right-hand corner, one-half inch from the top and flush with the right margin.
- Include a Works Cited page at the end of the paper to include all the sources cited in the paper.

MLA Resources

MLA Website

<https://style.mla.org/>

OWL Purdue Online Writing Lab (MLA)

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_style_introduction.html

MLA Sample Student Papers

<https://style.mla.org/sample-papers/>



*MLA Handbook,
9th Edition.* New
York: Modern
Language
Association of
America, 2021.

**If you come across anything
not mentioned in this
presentation or need further
information, consult the *MLA
Handbook, 9th ed.***

