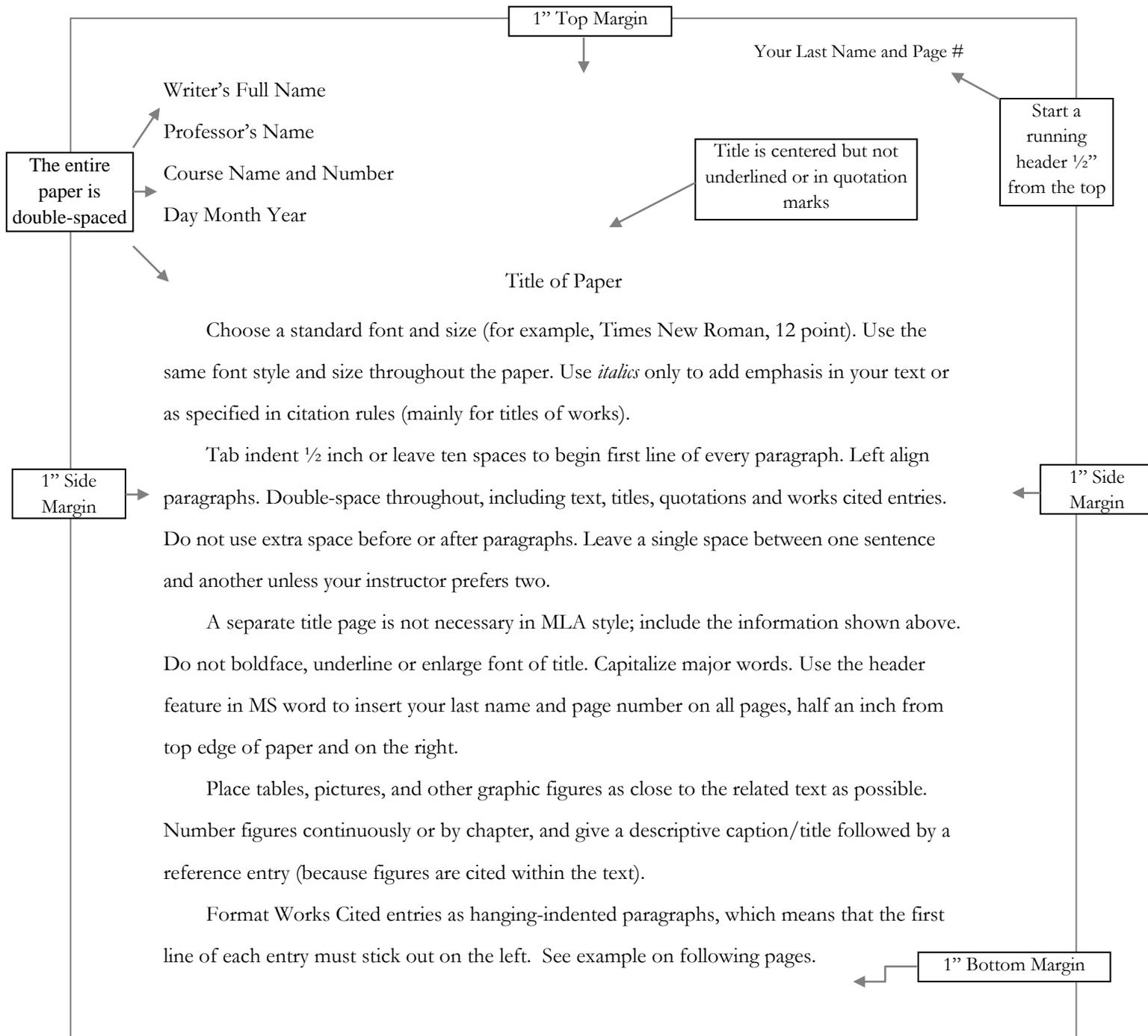


## MLA FORMAT & IN-TEXT CITATION

This brief handout was compiled using the Modern Language Handbook (MLA), seventh edition. Examples were adapted from various sources and revised April, 2010. For further information, please refer to the MLA handbook. The MLA formatting and citation style is commonly used in the humanities.

### THE FIRST PAGE

Below is a diagram of the first page of an MLA formatted paper.



## IN-TEXT CITATIONS

In-text citation is a brief reference to the source of other writers' words or ideas included in your text. This reference is meant to help the reader locate the corresponding Works Cited entry.

<b>ONE WORK BY ONE AUTHOR WITH A PAGE NUMBER</b>	<i>One of the paradoxes of democracy is that "individual freedom is possible when there is discipline regulated by the society" (Doe 23)</i>
<b>ONE WORK BY ONE AUTHOR WITHOUT A PAGE NUMBER</b>	<i>John Doe discusses this paradox of democracy when "individual freedom is possible when there is discipline regulated by the society" (23).</i>
<b>MULTIPLE WORKS BY THE SAME AUTHOR</b>	If you cite two or more works by the same author, add the title of the work between author name and page reference. Shorten title using key word(s) if it is long. <i>(Doe, Policy 23)</i> .
<b>ONE WORK BY UP TO THREE AUTHORS</b>	Cite all authors: <i>(Doe, Smith, and Williams 183-84)</i>
<b>THREE OR MORE AUTHORS</b>	Either write list all names or the first author's last name followed by "et al.". Do not use a period after "et" or a comma after "al." <i>Doe, Smith, and Williams argued that technology is not value-free (122).</i> <i>Technology is not value free (Doe et al. 122).</i>
<b>WORK WITH NO AUTHOR</b>	If your source has no author, then you default to the source's title. For example, if the title of the piece is "Vermont Food Producers Prepare for GMO Labeling," this will take the place of the author's last name in the in-text citation. Usually, though, you can abbreviate a title to the first three words, so the in-text citation would look like the following: ("Vermont Food Producers"). This is a web source, so it has no page numbers. On the Works Cited page, you would also replace the spot of the author with the full title in quotation marks and alphabetize by the first letter of the first word in the title.
<b>ELECTRONIC AND OTHER NON-PRINT SOURCES WITHOUT PAGE NUMBERS</b>	Try to give the section or paragraph number and indicate that the number does not refer to a page. You need not give page number of a one-page source. <i>(Doe, par. 3)</i> or <i>(Myth of Poverty, sec. 3)</i>
<b>INDIRECT SOURCE</b>	On occasion an author will quote another author/text. <i>Researchers Botan and McCreadie point out that "workers are objects of information collection without participating in the process of exchanging the information . . ." (qtd. in Kizga and Ssanyu 14).</i>
<b>PERSONAL COMMUNICATION</b>	You do not need to create separate bibliographic entry for it in the Works Cited section. <i>In an email John Brown sent me, he asserted that "global warming is not just a fact, it is the most severe threat to mankind" (July 13, 2007).</i>

## OTHER RESOURCES

- Online Citation Generators: While there are a growing number of useful electronic tools to help you create your MLA citations (such as RefWorks, available through the USF library website), be aware that you must still understand how the citation process functions. Without this understanding, these tools can easily provide you with incorrect citation formatting.
- The USF Library website for citing sources and RefWorks: <http://guides.lib.usf.edu/CitingSources>
- Purdue University's Online Writing Lab (OWL) <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

