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Dr. Instructor

English 101-A

4 July 1776

MLA Paper Format Sample

This is an MLA paper. The layout here is very standard and should be acceptable in almost any university humanities course in the USA. It has a one-inch margin all the way around, and the type is Times New Roman 12 point, double-spaced (though a few other typefaces are also acceptable). The first line of regular paragraphs is indented one-half inch, and the right margin is “ragged right,” which means you do not have to do anything to make the right margin straight.

The pages are numbered consecutively in the upper right corner, and the student’s last name appears there too. The first page of the paper has a title block in the upper left containing, from top to bottom, the student’s name, the instructor’s name, the name and number of the course, and the due date.

If you use a long direct quotation (four or more lines, typed), set it off as a separate paragraph like this. The whole paragraph is indented one half inch, but the first line does not get an extra indent. You do not need quotation marks around this sort of quote because the indentation is a signal to the academic reader that you are providing a long quote.

If you choose to provide a Works Cited page (not necessary with every paper), it always begins a new page.

Works Cited

This is the format for a Works Cited page. Notice that the first line sticks out and the rest of it is indented one half inch.