MLA
in a
Nutshell

This guide covers only the most common situations. For more information on MLA style, please consult the TRU Library guide at **http://libguides.tru.ca/mla**

Note
This guide is based on the *MLA Handbook, 8th Edition*. Always check with your instructors to see if their requirements differ from those described here.

THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY | **Library Writing Centre**

Formatting

Do:

- Double space the entire paper, including the Works Cited page.
- Set all four margins at 1 inch (2.5 cm).
- Use a legible font, such as Times New Roman, in 10 to 12 pt. size.
- Repeat the title at the top of the first page of text.
- Create a running head at the top of each page, with your last name and the page number in the top right corner, ½ inch from the top of the page.
- Number the pages with Arabic numerals (1, 2, 3 ...) beginning with the title page.
- Indent the first line of each paragraph.
- Leave one space after periods and other punctuation marks.

Don't:

- Justify the right edge of the text.
- Indent the first lines of a block quote.

Quotations

If a direct quote runs to less than four lines, put it in quotation marks:

> Svendsen says that "[i]t is important that readers know when you are borrowing someone else's exact words" (1).

If a direct quote runs to four or more lines, format it as a block quote:

> It is important that readers know when you are borrowing someone else's exact words. Otherwise, you may be accused of plagiarism, which is a form of theft. Students found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary action, possibly including ex-pulsion from the University. (Svendsen 1)

First Page

Your Name
Your name goes in the upper left corner.

Your Instructor's Name
The name of your instructor goes below your name.

Course
The name and number of the course goes below your instructor's name.

Date
The date goes below the course name and number.

Title
The title of your paper is centred below the date.

Jane Smith   Smith 1

Professor Clark

English 1100

10 May 2021

Negotiating with Nature: Apex Predators in
Canadian Literature

In recent years, images of apex predators, such as tigers, have appeared in the work of prominent Canadian writers, such as Yann Martel...

Works Cited

The Works Cited list begins on a separate page, with "Works Cited" centred at the top:
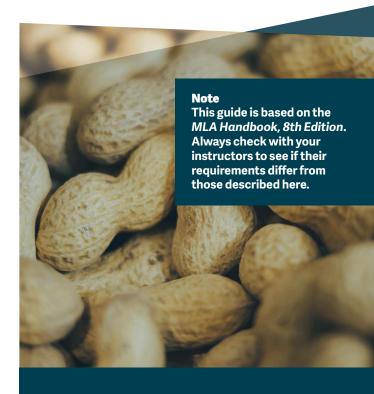
Smith 1

Works Cited

Dwyer, June. "Yann Martel's *Life of Pi* and the Evolution of the Shipwreck Narrative." *Modern Language Studies*, vol. 35, no. 2, 2005, pp. 9-21. *JSTOR*, jstor.org/stable/30039823.

In-text Citations

An in-text citation appears in the text of a paper to indicate that a source is being cited. It includes the last name of the author and the page range where the reader can find the information or quotation that is being cited:
… (Price 168-69).

If you mention the author's name in your text, just give the page range in parentheses:
Price claims … (168-69).

If you're quoting someone other than the author of the book or article, use "qtd. in" or "quoted in":
Munro described herself as "…" (qtd. in Löschnigg 60).

One Author
… (Dressler 48-49).
Dressler investigated … (48-49).

Two Authors
… (Andrews and Walton 605).
Andrews and Walton found … (605).

Three or More Authors
… (Jones, et al. 19-25).
Jones, Ross, Peters, and Smith argue … (19-25).
or Jones, et al., argue … (19-25). ["Et al." means "and others."]

Online source (No Pages)
… (Sanborn).
… ("Creating").

Works Cited

Journal Article (Database)
Andrews, Jennifer, and Priscilla L. Walton. "Rethinking Canadian and American Nationality: Indigeneity and the 49th Parallel in Thomas King." *American Literary History*, vol. 18, no. 3, 2006, pp. 600-617. *Academic Search Complete*, doi:10.1093/alh/ajl001.

Journal Article (Open Access)
Dressler, Roswita. "Exploring Linguistic Identity in Young Multilingual Learners." *TESL Canada Journal*, vol. 32, no. 1, 2014, pp. 42-52, www.teslcanadajournal.ca/index.php/tesl/article/view/1198.

Book (Print)
Miller, D. A. *Jane Austen, or The Secret of Style*. Princeton UP, 2003.
["UP" stands for "University Press".]

Chapter in an Edited Book
Price, Martin. "Austen: Manners and Morals." *Jane Austen*, edited by Harold Bloom, Chelsea House, 1986, pp. 163-178.

Book (Online - Ebrary or Google Books)
Scheuermann, Mona. *Reading Jane Austen*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2009. *ProQuest Ebrary*, site.ebrary.com/lib/trulibrary/detail.action?docID=10400079.

Newspaper Article (Print)
Khan, Sheema. "Beyond Tolerance Lies True Respect." *The Globe and Mail*, 28 Feb. 2013, p. A15.

Newspaper Article (Online - Website)
Khan, Sheema. "Allophilia: Beyond Tolerance Lies True Respect." *The Globe and Mail*, 28 Feb. 2013, www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/allophilia-beyond-tolerance-lies-true-respect/article9130024.

Government Report (Online)
Heisz, Andrew. *Income Inequality and Redistribution in Canada: 1976 to 2004*. Statistics Canada, 2007, www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11f0019m/11f0019m2007298-eng.htm.

Website or Blog
Sanborn, Vic. "The Green Baize Door: Dividing Line between Servant and Master." *Jane Austen's World*, 27 Jan. 2012, janeaustensworld.wordpress.com/ 2012/01/27/the-green-baize-door-dividing-line-between-servant-and-master.

Video (Online - YouTube)
Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi. "The Danger of a Single Story." *YouTube*, uploaded by TED, 7 Oct. 2009, youtu.be/D9Ihs241zeg.
"Creating a Good Research Question." *YouTube*, up-loaded by Georgia State University Centre for Instruction Innovation, 26 Jul. 2013, youtu.be/89NonP_iZZo.

Movie
Clueless. Directed by Amy Heckerling, performances by Alicia Silverstone, Stacey Dash, and Brittany Murphy, Paramount, 1995.

Episode of a TV show (Online - Netflix)
"Hush." *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, season 4, episode 10, WB, 14 Dec. 1999. Netflix, www.netflix.com/