

MLA Overview and Workshop

Generated on 2025-08-18 04:30:56

MLA Style sets clear standards for scholarly communication in areas such as document formatting, the use of abbreviations and footnotes, quoting sources, and preparing manuscripts, particularly in the humanities.

Why Use MLA?

Using MLA Style enhances the readability of academic work by providing consistent cues for referencing and formatting. It helps writers present their ideas clearly while guiding readers to sources. Adhering to MLA standards also establishes the writer's credibility and attention to academic norms.

Who Uses MLA?

MLA is widely used in the humanities, especially in disciplines such as:

- English and Literature
- Foreign Languages
- Literary and Cultural Studies
- Comparative Literature

Core Aspects of MLA Formatting and Notation:

Writers must become familiar with MLA's general formatting rules, including layout, abbreviation standards, and detailed citation practices. Key areas include:

General Format:

- Page setup and structure for an MLA manuscript
- Specific formatting guidelines for the first page

Footnotes and Endnotes:

- Uses and differences between footnotes and endnotes
- Proper formatting and numbering practices

Quotations:

- Guidelines for incorporating short and long quotations
- Instructions for omitting or adding words to quotes accurately

Abbreviations:

- Common academic abbreviations by category (time, location, publisher)
- Abbreviating in-text and Works Cited entries appropriately

Citations and the Works Cited Page:

Accurate citation is a cornerstone of MLA style. This includes incorporating in-text references and compiling a Works Cited page. Topics include:

Documenting Sources:

- Using containers and developing citations
- Adhering to 9th edition guidelines

In-Text Citations:

- Basics of parenthetical citations
- Author-page style and variations for different source types
- Citing indirect sources

Works Cited Page:

- General rules and layout for Works Cited pages
- Specifics for citing books, periodicals, electronic sources, and non-print materials

Specialized Citation Guidelines:

- Books: single/multiple authors, chapters, multivolume sets
- Other Sources: government docs, dissertations, pamphlets
- Periodicals: magazines, newspapers, journals with varying formats
- Electronic Sources: blogs, videos, emails, scholarly databases
- Non-Print: interviews, artworks, recordings

For precise guidance, users are encouraged to consult the MLA Handbook (9th edition) or use the OWL's categorized tools under "Research and Citation" on their navigation bar.