MLA: What’s the Use?

Video Transcript

When your teacher tells you to submit something in MLA format, do you know what that means? Why is there a difference between MLA, APA, Turabian, and Chicago styles of formatting? Every field of study and research has its own preferred style of formatting; the fields of language, composition, and literature studies most often prefer MLA. Formatting styles are easy once you figure out that each style has a clear and necessary purpose; from there, it’s really just a matter of remembering to do it correctly!

MLA stands for the Modern Language Association, which is a professional and academic organization for scholars and professionals who work with language, composition, and literature. Other organizations have their own style guides. For example, the American Psychological Association has the APA style guide. Even companies such as Google, Apple, and the New York Times have their own style guides to ensure that products produced by their employees meet a certain standard of consistency.

MLA’s style guidelines are all about how information is produced. The style guide offers guidance on two major elements of writing: arranging information on the page, and citing information.

MLA formatting manages several things, including how a document looks, which elements are included, and how those elements are arranged on the page. In MLA, for example, no cover page is required. Other style guides, like APA, require a cover page for all essays. There are a few important aspects to remember about MLA formatting.

First, your last name and page number should be in the upper right-hand corner. Second, you need a header with your full name, the instructor’s name, the course name, and the submission date. This
The other major aspect of MLA formatting is citation. Citation in MLA consists of two major elements: in-text citations, which include the author’s last name and the page number of the quote or paraphrase, and the works cited page.

How familiar are you with MLA formatting? Are you ready to begin incorporating it into your essays?

About this transcript:

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