

How to write the research paper in MLA format

- 8-10 pages is the minimum requirement
- 12 point Times Roman typed font
- MLA heading (your name, my name, class, date) on 1st page only
- MLA header (last name and page) every page ½ “ down from top right
- 1” margins left, right, top
- a new Works Cited is the last page – does not count for page requirement
- Works Cited should **only** list sources used in paper
- 10 sources required in paper
- Balance of research and your own writing should be about 50/50.
- Argument Paper – Not informative

Plagiarism

Any time you fail to give credit to an outside source in your written work, you are claiming the work and ideas as your own. Using someone else's ideas or written work as your own, intentionally or accidentally, is plagiarism. Essays downloaded from the Internet, purchased or not, are considered plagiarized. If a parent, sibling, or friend writes an essay and you turn it in as your work, you have plagiarized. Plagiarism can appear in various forms and degrees, but it is always grounds for assignment failure and disciplinary action. I will not tolerate plagiarism in any form.

Plagiarism = 0/100 points on Final Draft

How to Avoid Plagiarism

- Cite **everything** not from your own brain before doing the research for this paper.
- This includes direct quotes, facts, dates, statistics, summaries, paraphrasing, putting information into your own words. Cite it all to be safe.
- This is a citation – (Miller 69).

How to properly cite information borrowed

#1 – If author is *not* mentioned prior to the info borrowed then:

One researcher stated that, “half of all children that watch TV have violent tendencies” (Anderson 17).

#2 – If author *is* mentioned prior to the info borrowed then:

In his book, *The Rise of a Violent Youth*, Joseph Mack explains, “violence is on the rise due directly to the increase of violence seen on television shows” (21).

#3 If quote is longer than 5 typed lines (and all of it necessary) then:

One researcher stated that in his research children:

(indent 10 spaces) Put the long quote in this area and the whole thing should be indented 10 spaces so that it physically looks different than the rest of the page. (King)

Then continue your own writing in the normal spot without indenting.

How I grade the paper

- 1. Can you count? 8-10 pages, 10 sources
- 2. MLA format? You should know by now!
- 3. Do sources cited in paper match Works Cited?
- 4. Is it argumentative?
- 5. Organization? Does the paper clearly follow the proposal argument structure, your outline, and include the counterarguments?
- 6. Is your argument well researched and is your thesis proved?
- 7. Grammar, spelling, mechanics
- 8. Is it interesting?

What is due Friday

- Research Paper final with new Works Cited
- Outline (old)
- Works Cited (old)
- Topic Paragraph (old)
- Electronic Copy of Final Paper via e-mail attachment or flash drive (to check plagiarism)

Last Words of Advice

- It is due by the end of the period on Friday or it is late and worth 0 points. Yes, even if you are absent. (**don't test me on this**)
- Start sooner rather than later
- Ask me questions
- This will take **way** longer than you think to write (average of 6-8 hours)
- I won't accept the paper if you didn't turn in any of the previous steps.
- I **will not** print this for you and I need a printed version – not just a electronic copy.
- Good luck!