

The Essay: MLA Formatting

Why Use MLA?

- **Allows readers to cross-reference your sources easily**
- **Provides consistent format**
- **Gives you credibility as a writer**
- **Protects yourself from plagiarism**

Cross-Referencing Your Sources

Cross-referencing allows readers to locate the publication information of source material. This is of great value for researchers who may want to locate your sources for their own research projects.

Using a Consistent Format

- **Using a consistent format helps your reader understand your arguments and the sources they're built on.**
- **It also helps you keep track of your sources as you build arguments.**

Establishing Credibility

The proper use of MLA style shows the credibility of writers; such writers show accountability to their source material.

Avoiding Plagiarism

Proper citation of your sources in MLA style can help you avoid plagiarism, which is a serious offense. It may result in anything from failure of the assignment to expulsion from school.

MLA Style: Three Parts

- **Formatting**
- **Works Cited Page**
- **Parenthetical Citations**

In this slideshow, we are only going to focus on formatting.

Formatting the First Page

Purdue 1

Pete Purdue

Dr. B. Boilermaker

English 101

12 November 2000

Building a Dream: Reasons to Expand Ross-Aide Stadium

During the 2000 football season, the Purdue Boilermakers won the Big Ten Conference Title, earned their first trip to the Rose Bowl (con't...)_

Formatting

- **Double-spaced**
- **12-point font (A Clean Font)**
- **1-inch margins**
- **Titles of published books get italicized (typing) or underlined (writing by hand)**
- **Titles of articles, poems or other short writing pieces are in quotation marks**

Formatting

- **Top Right Margin contains your last name and page number**
- **The MLA Header contains:**

First Last name

Teacher's Name

Course Code

Date as: 20 October 2024

Formatting

- The title is centered but is the same font as the rest of the essay.
- Indent each paragraph without extra spacing.