

## RESEARCH PAPER FORMAT GUIDE

ENGL 102.3

### WRITING AND RESEARCH

## Format of Research Papers:

Research papers have very specific formats that they are to follow. MLA and APA each have their own distinctive format that they wish you to use. I will present both of them in the pages following. First, I will present an overview of the format style, then I will show you a sample of that style. I will do MLA on first, and then APA.

## MLA TITLE PAGE FORMAT GUIDE

For the **MLA** paper, note that:

1. MLA officially does not require a title page, but your instructor most likely will ask for one. Thus the examples show you the actual MLA format, and the common revised title page format.
2. If you use a title page in MLA, it is not counted in the page count. Page 1 is ALWAYS the first page containing the text of your paper.
3. **If** you use a title page, page 1 begins with the title centered 2 inches from the top of your paper. This is the **only** deviation allowed from the standard 1 inch margin.
4. You must include your last name 3 spaces to the left of the page number in the upper right hand corner of **every** page of text, including the Works Cited page. This information should be located in the Header **1/2 inch from the top** of the paper.

Being a research paper, your paper will also have:

1. 1 inch margins all around: top, bottom, left and right
2. everything double spaced
3. A Works Cited page that is a numbered page beginning on the first page following the last page of text.

**REALIZE THAT THESE ARE THE GUIDELINES FROM THE MLA HANDBOOK. YOUR INSTRUCTOR MAY REQUIRE A DIFFERENT FORMAT. ALWAYS BE WILLING TO ADAPT TO THE INSTRUCTOR'S PREFERENCES, AS THEY GIVE THE GRADE.**

Last name 3 spaces from page number and 1/2 inch down from top

James S. Kosmicki

Professor Edwards

Normal title page info listed here and double spaced

English 799

This is the official MLA format, but most instructors don't like this one and have you use the one shown on the next page

6 August 1990

Full title listed here and centered, but not underlined, big font or bold

Perverted Trash!: Public Perception of Comics as a Mass Medium

Indent first line after double spacing

In the June 11, 1984, issue of *The New Yorker*, noted comic book

creator Scott McCloud stated, "The basic misconception most people

share is that comics are a genre. They're not -- they're a medium"

(36). This quote neatly summarizes the basic problem facing the

medium of comics today. To most people, comics is a style of

Use a ragged right margin

communication that can communicate only a certain type or genre of

story. If commix is used as a comic strip, it is expected that the

content will be humorous, such as Garfield, Peanuts, or even

Doonesbury, or sentimental like Mary Worth. If comics is used in

comic books, the typical reader will expect the content to include

stories about superhuman characters like Batman and Superman, or

stories intended for children with characters like Little Lulu or

Donald Duck. Each of these forms of comics is limited by what the

public has been conditioned to expect from them. In turn, the

creators and publishers of comics have acquiesced to the public's

limited vision and only created works that fit within the reader's

expectations.

This limited vision of what comics can contain not only limits

the content, it also limits the medium itself by defining the medium

not by what it is, but rather by its content. Comics is unique

1 inch margins all around

If title page is used, it is not numbered

This is more typical of the type of format an MLA instructor will actually ask students to use. However, it is not the official MLA form.

Perverted Trash!:

The title is written as normal text, no underline, no special font, no bold print

Public Perception of Comics as a Mass Medium

This block of text is centered both vertical and horizontal

by  
James S. Kosmicki

There should be 12 lines between these sections

English 799  
Professor Edwards  
6 August 1990

Last name 3 spaces from page number and 1/2 inch down from top

If separate title page is used, title is brought down 2 inches on first page of text, this margin change is only on first page.

Perverved Trash!: Public Perception of Comics as a Mass Medium

Indent first line after double spacing

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1 inch margins all around except top