

MLA Format Cheat Sheet

This handout provides a quick reference to the basics of using MLA style. For complete guidelines, consult *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 8th ed. Or <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

Major Updates from the New (8th) Edition

- All entries in a reference list, whether print or electronic, must now include the medium in which they have been published (Print, Web, DVD, Television, etc.)
- URLs are required in citations.
- Terms like editor, illustrator, translator, etc., are no longer abbreviated.
- If a source is part of a numbered sequence, such as a multi-volume book, or journal with both volume and issue numbers, those numbers must be listed in your citation.
- The following are now optional according to your instructor: Date of original publication, city of publication (except for works published before 1900), date of access, URL, and DOI.

Formatting Basics

- Double space throughout paper, with no extra spaces between paragraphs.
- Left-justify
- Top, bottom, and side margins should be one inch.
- Indent the first word of each paragraph by ½ inch or 5 spaces.
- Do not use a title page. Before you begin your essay, type your name, instructor's name, course name, and date. This should be flush with the left margin.
- Center the title of the paper. Do not underline the title, or put in "quotation marks," or set in ALL CAPITALS.
- Number all pages consecutively in the upper right-hand corner, ½ inch from the top and flush with right margin. Type your last name before the page number, and do not use "p." before the number.

SAMPLE FIRST PAGE:

	Josephson 1
Laura Josephson	
Professor Barnett	
Humanities 210	
8 November 2008	
Ellington's Adventures in Music and Geography	
In studying the influence of Latin American, African, and Asian music on modern	

Name: _____

Research Paper OUTLINE

INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH

(Indent) Intro Topic/ Attention Getter (QUESTION, GEN. STATEMENT, QUOTATION) COMPLETE SENT.

Should the United States allow Syrian refugees in our country?

Summarize work or preview your main points of your essay. (THESIS LEAD-IN) COMPLETE SENT.

Refugees should be allowed in the United States because they are human beings and follow our laws.

THESIS Statement: (Remember 3 parts—highlight them!!!!) TOPIC, CLAIM SUPPORT

You shouldn't have to flee your country because of race or nationality

Name: _____

Research Paper OUTLINE	
Body Paragraph #1	
(Indent)Topic Sentence	FULL SENT. ABOUT WHAT PARAGRAPH IS ABOUT
Who are Syrian refugees & why did they have to flee their country.	
1. Fact or Quote related to Topic (write full sentence with citation)	
Explanation/Commentary LIST AT LEAST THREE DISCUSSION POINTS TO TALK ABOUT	
2. Fact or Quote Related to Topic (write full sentence with citation)	
Syrian refugees left to avoid the militant Islamist group known as Islamic State (ISIS)	
Explanation/Commentary LIST AT LEAST THREE DISCUSSION POINTS TO TALK ABOUT	
3. Fact or Quote Related to Topic (write full sentence with citation)	
How are most refugees smuggled.	
Explanation/Commentary LIST AT LEAST THREE DISCUSSION POINTS TO TALK ABOUT	

Name: _____

Research Paper OUTLINE

Body Paragraph #2

(Indent)Topic Sentence

Syrian refugees should have the same rights as all human beings.

1. Fact or Quote Related to Topic (write full sentence with citation)

Supporting refugee rights can help the refugee problem.

Explanation/Commentary

LIST AT LEAST THREE DISCUSSION POINTS TO TALK ABOUT

2. Fact or Quote Related to Topic (write full sentence with citation)

Refugees should have legal aid claims

Explanation/Commentary

LIST AT LEAST THREE DISCUSSION POINTS TO TALK ABOUT

3. Fact or Quote Related to Topic (write full sentence with citation)

How can individuals help to solve this refugee problem.

Explanation/Commentary

LIST AT LEAST THREE DISCUSSION POINTS TO TALK ABOUT

Research Paper OUTLINE

Name: _____

Body Paragraph #3	
(Indent)Topic Sentence	
Refugees shouldn't be detained & seperated from their children.	
1. Fact or Quote Related to Topic (write full sentence with citation)	
There's cause & consequences of displacement	
Explanation/Commentary	LIST AT LEAST THREE DISCUSSION POINTS TO TALK ABOUT
2. Fact or Quote Related to Topic (write full sentence with citation)	
The impacts & issues of men seperated from their family	
Explanation/Commentary	LIST AT LEAST THREE DISCUSSION POINTS TO TALK ABOUT
3. Fact or Quote Related to Topic (write full sentence with citation)	
The order that blocked the entry to the United States.	
Explanation/Commentary	LIST AT LEAST THREE DISCUSSION POINTS TO TALK ABOUT
Research Paper guideline	

Conclusion

(Indent) Restate Thesis

Should the United States allow Syrian
refugees in our country

Review Main Points

Refugees should be allowed in the
United States because they are human
beings as long as they follow our laws.

Final Statement- a memorable or important message/statement to leave with the reader

We all should be treated equally in the
eyes of the Lord and not by our race
or nationality.