

Research Paper Tips

Format:

- Typed, double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman, 1" margins.
- MLA Heading: First Name Last Name, Instructor, Course Title, Day Month Year.
- Last Name and Page Number top right hand corner.

Thesis:

- Stated in the introduction (at the end of the first paragraph).
- Make it clear, explicit, and authoritative.
- Issue + your point of view/opinion on the issue = thesis statement.

Body Paragraphs:

- 3 or more distinctively different reasons.
- Topic sentences in the beginning of the paragraphs.
- One or two citations per body paragraph.
 - **Direct quote:** "We backed up to a gray old man who bore an absurd resemblance to John D. Rockefeller" (Fitzgerald 27).
 - **Indirect quote:** They characters were stated to back up to a gray old man who bore an absurd resemblance to John D. Rockefeller (Fitzgerald 27).
- Elaborate after using a citation. Explain what the quote is showing!
 - Don't leave citations just "hanging".
- Balance your paragraphs by containing almost if not equal amount of information.

MLA Documentation:

- Use all your sources that are listed on your Works Cited.
- Include the title of a source before using it.
- Include the author(s)' first and last name(s).
- Title of books, journals, magazines, newspapers, and film are italicized or underlined.
- Title of articles are in quotations.

Works Cited:

- It is the last page of your essay.
- Works Cited written at the top and center.
- All your sources listed alphabetically.
- Documented correctly according to MLA style and instructions (review the MLA Notes).