

# LPCI ENGLISH DEPARTMENT MLA STYLE GUIDE

English following the MLA Style Guide, 8<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2005

## **Titles of Works: Underlining, *Italics*, or "Quotation Marks?"**

1. Italics or underlines are for titles of works published as independent volumes:

Books (novels, short story collections, non-fiction books)

Films, videos

All plays

Periodicals (journals, magazines, newspapers)

Poems that have been published as an entire book (e.g. *Paradise Lost*)

NOTE: Underlining and italics are equivalent in MLA (though underlining is a carryover from the days of typewriters), but university instructors may prefer one over the other. Only one method should be used in a work.

**\*LPCI students should underline when handwriting essays and assignments; they should use italics when typing their work.**

## LPCI ENGLISH DEPARTMENT MLA STYLE GUIDE

2. Quotation Marks (“ ”) are for titles that are part of a larger published work:

Poems in a larger work

Titles of chapters

Articles in published journals, magazines, newspapers, etc.

Short Stories in collections

Note: Never **bold** titles or combine italics with underlines and/quotations.

**Punctuation with Quotations:** commas and periods are contained within quotations with dialogue and titles of works:

e.g. In “Stopping by Woods,” Frost appeals to the auditory sense. **Or**, Frost appeals to the auditory sense in “Stopping by Woods.”

e.g. In "Ode on a Grecian Urn," Keats' explores the paradoxical relationship between rational thought and the power of the imagination. Rather than argue the supremacy of one over the other, Keats fuses the two together, hypnotising that "Beauty is Truth, truth beauty" (49).

## LPCI ENGLISH DEPARTMENT MLA STYLE GUIDE

### In-Text Citations (prose)

MLA requires only the page number(s) in parenthesis if the author and title of the work are clear to the reader (i.e. mentioned in the sentence or earlier in the essay):

- e.g. Wordsworth states that Romantic poetry is marked by a "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (263)
- e.g. Romantic poetry is characterized by the "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (Wordsworth 263).
- e.g. Wordsworth states, "Romantic poetry is a spontaneous overflow of powerful feeling" (263).

Note that commas are used to introduce quotations when a words such a "said, states, argues, suggests" are used before the quote. When the quotation is integrated into the grammatical flow of the sentence, a comma is not used.

For short quotations, the referenced material is integrated into paragraph sentences, as above. For longer quotations (4 lines of typed text or more), one should use block quotations, as follows:

In order to function in the Information Age and beyond, all citizens need a solid understanding of English communication *The Ontario Secondary School English Curriculum* states:

Language development is central to students' intellectual, social, cultural, and emotional growth and must be seen as a key component of the curriculum. When students learn to use language, they do more than master the basic skills. They learn to value the power of language and to use it responsibly. (4)

It is clear that the main focus of this new curriculum is not just literature studies. Instead, the focus is on the use of language skills and the development of students as whole people.

Note the placement of the end punctuation and that quotation marks are not used in block quotations. As well, block quotations NEVER end a paragraph. Quations must be commented on. Remember this rule: Introduce, integrate an then comment upon all cited material. QUOTATION NEVER STAND ALONE.

## In-Text Citations (Poetry and Plays)

For verse plays, MLA recommends giving act, scene, and line numbers. Use Arabic numerals and separate the numbers with periods (no spaces):

e.g. In Shakespeare's *King Lear*, Gloucester learns a profound lesson from his tragic experience: "A man may see how this world goes / with no eyes" (4.2.148-49).

Line breaks are indicated with a forward slash /. The original text would have appeared like this:

<b>Gloucester:</b>	A man may see how this world goes	148
	with no eyes. Look with thine ears; see how yond justice	149

A passage of more than 3 lines should be block quoted:

e.g. In "Stopping by Woods," Frost appeals to the auditory sense:

He gives his harness bells a shake  
To ask if there is some mistake.  
The only other sound's the sweep  
Of easy wind and downy flake. (9-12)

Frost's use of sound--bells ringing and sweeping wind--creates movement in the already vivid image.

Periods and commas are dropped at the end of a direct quotation; however, question marks and exclamation points are never dropped:

e.g. By asking "if there is some mistake" (10), the speaker suggests . . . .

e.g. The speaker asks, "has there been a better day than this?" (15).

## Works Cited Page

In MLA students create a "Works Cited" page for inclusion at the end of an essay or report. Cited material, regardless of the type (film, book etc.) are listed alphabetical by last name (when last name is unknown, the title of the work is used). Note the layout below:

### Works Cited

Avison, Margaret. "The Dumfounding." *Representative Poetry Online: Canadian Poets*. Ed. Ian Lancashire. 2002. 1 May 2007 <<http://www.library.utoronto.ca/canpoetry/avision>>.

Battles, Mathew. "Romantics in Our Time." *English Poets of the 18th Century*. London: Oxford UP. 2004.

"Colours of Poetry." *A New Critical Reader*. Toronto: U of T UP. 1997.

"Dying for Beauty." *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. 15th ed. 1991. 1:311

Keats, John. "Ode on a Grecian Urn." *The Portable Keats*. Eds. John Smith and Rebecca Taves. New York: Norton. 2003.

Rembrandt, Rijn. Self Portrait, 1660. Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. In *Modern Art*. By Simaon Funky Town. New York: Random House, 1999. 640.