

## **Using MLA Style to Format the Science PACE 8 Research Paper:**

1. Type your paper on a computer and print it out on standard, white 8.5 x 11-inch paper.
2. Double-space the text of your paper, and use a legible font (e.g. Times New Roman). Whatever font you choose, MLA recommends that the regular and italics type styles contrast enough that they are recognizable one from another. The font size should be 12 pt.
3. Leave only one space after periods or other punctuation marks (unless otherwise instructed by your instructor).
4. Set the margins of your document to 1 inch on all sides.
5. Indent the first line of paragraphs one half-inch from the left margin. MLA recommends that you use the Tab key as opposed to pushing the Space Bar five times.
6. Create a header that numbers all pages consecutively in the upper right-hand corner, one-half inch from the top and flush with the right margin. (Note: Your instructor may ask that you omit the number on your first page. Always follow your instructor's guidelines.)
7. In the upper left-hand corner of the first page, list your name, your instructor's name, the course, and the date. Again, be sure to use double-spaced text.
8. Double space again and center the title. Do not underline, italicize, or place your title in quotation marks; write the title using Title Case (standard capitalization), not in all capital letters.
9. Double space between the title and the first line of the text.
10. Create a header in the upper right-hand corner that includes your last name, followed by a space with a page number; number all pages consecutively with Arabic numerals (1, 2, 3, 4, etc.), one-half inch from the top and flush with the right margin. (Note: Your instructor or other readers may ask that you omit last name/page number header on your first page. Always follow instructor guidelines.)

## Sections of the Paper

### Title

- Should clearly express the subject matter of the paper, but can be creative

### Abstract

- Summary of the most important ideas of the paper, written as a single paragraph, no more than 500 words (this section is written LAST)

### Introduction

- State the Problem
- Literature Review/Background (secondary) research: Address relevant studies by other researchers (a full history of the topic is NOT needed) [this is where library research comes into play, and writer utilizes in-text citations]
- Explain why problem is significant and how it applies to the larger field of research
- Clearly state the hypothesis

### Methods

- Thoroughly describe methods used to investigate the problem and briefly describe why these methods were used
- Document materials used (including computer programs if any)

### Results

- Explain results
- Show data in graph format or include in an Appendix
  - (multiple runs, multiple data sets)

### Conclusions

- Explain what happened and why
- Describe changes that could be made to experiment to change the results of the experiment
- If this research were pursued, identify the next problem/question that would be addressed

### Works Cited

- List the references cited in the paper