

How to Set Up a Works Cited Page in MLA Format

Every time you use outside materials for a paper, you're going to have to cite it. For the actual format of each specific resource you use, please refer to the [MLA references section](#) of the Writing Lab's website. The purpose of this tutorial is to show you how to format the page properly. The methods used here are for Microsoft Word 2003 or higher. Other word processors may have different ways to create the same effect.

Some general tips that you need to keep in mind are

- in MLA it is titled Works Cited;
- all entries should be double spaced (like your paper) with a hanging indent;
- all entries should be alphabetized by author or title if no author;
 - If you are using the title instead of an author, you do not count articles (a, an, the) when alphabetizing. So if the title is "The Dark Planet," this would be alphabetized under D for Dark.
- and *never* use a web-based bibliography generator; they are unreliable and often take longer to fix than if you'd done it all yourself.

Below is an example of what the reference page should look like. Remember, page break is your friend and will keep your works cited page stable no matter how many revisions you do of your paper. If you don't know how to create a page break or hanging indent, see [How to Use Word to Format a Paper](#). If you are using a word processor without these capabilities, a hanging indent is all lines except the first indented 0.5" in from the left margin.

Works Cited

Ironman 3. Dir. Shane Black. Perf. Robert Downey Jr, Guy Pearce, Gwyneth Paltrow, and Don Cheadle. Warner Bros., 2013. Film.

Gray, Gandalf the. "You Shall Not Pass: How to Defeat a Balrog." *Wizards Quarterly* 24.2 (1954): 75-91. *ProQuest*. Web. 10 June 2013.

McCoy, Leonard, and Christine Chapel. *Dealing with Difficult Patients: Tips and Techniques for Multiple Species*. San Francisco, CA: Random House, 1966. Print

Rowling, J. K. *Pottermore.com*. N.p. 2013. Web. 10 June 2013.

Washburne, Hoban. "Sudden but Inevitable Betrayal: The Fall of the Dinosaurs." *Paleontology Today* 14 (2003): n. pag. *Serenity.com*. Web. 10 June 2013.