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 Humanities 101
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2.0 ID Block

2.0 Ragged Margin
No Hyphens!

2x Space

Centered Title in Heading Caps ← 3.5 Heading Caps

“Every time you write a research paper, you enter into a community of writers and scholars” (Feal xiii). The Modern Language Association (MLA) has evolved a crisp modern style to help you engage this community with your insights and study. Though it has its foibles, compared to other styles it is remarkably uncluttered and easy to use.

3.4 Quotes

3.1 Acronyms

4.0 Citations

The Modern Language Association publishes two books on its documentation style: the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (for high school and undergraduate students) and the *MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing* (for graduate students, scholars, and professional writers). These volumes provide the most accurate and complete instructions. . . . (Gibaldi, iv)

3.4 Block Quote

3.5 Titles

3.2 Italics?

3.3 Numbers

There are 313 pages in *MLA Handbook*, organized into seven chapters plus appendixes. It is one of the few major style guides still reasonably priced at less than \$20.¹ However, the *Handbook* is slightly abridged, not covering the headings and subheadings found in the MLA's own journal, *PMLA* (Publications of the Modern Language Association).

The style follows several basic rules in formatting a text: (1) margins are one inch around the page, (2) *all text* is double-spaced, and (3) every page is numbered consecutively through the manuscript. Quotations are subject to complex rules and formatting requirements. Footnotes go inside the margins, endnotes at the end of the text before the works-cited list. These notes may take the form of *content notes* or *bibliographic notes* (i.e., referring to an sources in the works-cited list). The style also has a misplaced passion for abbreviations (e.g., devoting a chapter to the topic in the *Handbook*). Students majoring in the humanities are well advised to purchase the text.

3.2 Emphasis

2.2 Lists?

3.4 Quotes

3.1 Abbreviations

2.4 Notes

¹Earlier editions listed Joseph Gibaldi as the author, now it is just the MLA.

2.4 Footnotes

Footnotes go inside the margins in the text space.

