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### Using Modern Language Association Format for Academic Essays

#### A Sample for Students

Modern Language Association (MLA) format is standard for papers in courses in the humanities, including English composition and literature courses. Among the required features are double-spacing throughout, 1/2-inch (1/2 space) paragraph indents, no extra space between paragraphs, 1-inch margins, and a last name header with page number at the right margin. For word processed work, automatic headers and pagination are required. Additionally, set left justification and use Times New Roman or a similar "book" font with a 12-point size unless otherwise assigned or permitted. The Help files of your word processor, accessible through the upper menu bar, provide directions for setting these features.

Many teachers of other subjects also accept MLA format for formal papers. However, other styles might be assigned. For example, courses in education and psychology might require American Psychological Association (APA) style, and courses in science might require Council of Biology Editors (CBE) style. Students usually need to learn how to follow the guidelines for a style rather than to memorize them. Following the designated format guides demonstrates your seriousness and your adaptability, both attributes of an educated citizen.