

Writing Papers in MLA Format

HEADING:

In the upper left margin of the first page type the following: your name, the instructor's name, course title, and date.

TITLE:

Do not use a title page. Center the title after the heading.

MARGINS:

Set top, bottom, left and right margins to 1.0 inch.

FONT:

Use 12 pt. Times New Roman.

LINE SPACING:

Everything is double-spaced (spacing = 2.0).

ALIGNMENT:

Align text to the left (do not justify).

INDENTATION:

Indent the first line of each paragraph 0.5 inches.

The diagram illustrates the layout of an MLA format page. At the top, a red double-headed arrow indicates a width of 8½". On the right side, a red double-headed arrow indicates a height of ½" from the top margin to the page number "Doe 1". On the left side, a red double-headed arrow indicates a height of 1" from the top margin to the start of the heading. The heading consists of four lines: "John Doe", "Mr. Smith", "English 10", and "15 May 2016". Below the heading, the title "The Gray Wolves Return" is centered. The first paragraph of the text begins with "The gray wolves are back in Yellowstone National Park and in areas of Idaho. According to the article 'Wolf Reintroduction' from Wikipedia 'wolf packs were reintroduced to Yellowstone National Park and Idaho starting in 1995.'" This paragraph is indented ½" from the left margin. A second paragraph follows, starting with "controversy. Local ranchers and residents of Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho have long hated and feared the big, bad wolf. Because most of them think the only good wolf is a dead wolf, they sympathize with the hunter in 'Little Red Riding Hood' who chooses to death the wolf in order to save both helpless, old granny and dear, sweet Little Red. Yet, as noted by Scott Kirkwood in his article 'Wolf and Consequences' in the National Parks journal, wildlife biologists, supported by the Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), persisted until they reintroduced wolves into the area. Even though the wolves' reintroduction has been a battle with local industry and ranchers, wolves have not only successfully adapted but have also improved the overall ecology of the area." This paragraph is also indented ½" from the left margin. A third paragraph begins with "Initially, a wolf recovery team, appointed in 1974, battled negative local industry. The New York Times' article 'Moose Must Relearn Lessons in Survival' written by Henry Fountain quoted Dr. John Gittleman, a professor of evolutionary biology at the University of Virginia. He argued, 'There could be potentially catastrophic effects if [biologists] introduce carnivores into areas they've been gone from.'" Hunters worried that moose and other favorite prey would be". This paragraph is also indented ½" from the left margin. Red double-headed arrows indicate a 1" left margin, a 1" right margin, and a 1" bottom margin.

PAGE NUMBERING:

Begin page numbering on the first page. Using a right-aligned header, type your last name, followed by a space, and then insert an automatic page number. Set the header to be 0.5 inches from the top of the page.

QUOTATION SET UP:

When introducing a quote, lead in with source information: the author, the title of the article in quotes, and the title of the source in italics.

THESIS:

The last sentence of your introduction should contain the thesis, a one-sentence map of your entire paper.

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QUOTATIONS:

When citing a source for the second or following times, place the author's last name in the parenthetical notation. Add the page number if available. If there is no author, place the title in parentheses.

PARAPHRASING:

When summarizing or paraphrasing, you still must cite the source. However, quotation marks are not required around paraphrases.

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eliminated by the wolf packs. "In Wyoming, most of the moose had been isolated from ... wolves for the better part of a century" (Fountain). Gary Miller in his article "Return of the Gray Wolf" in the *National Geographic Explorer* notes that wolves prefer hunting and eating large animals such as elk and moose. Indeed, local outfitters worry they will have no more business from hunters who rely upon them as guides to the plentiful herds of moose.

In addition, most ranchers continue to battle the reintroduction of wolves because "they worry wolves will kill their livestock" (Miller). Indeed, there have been hundreds of confirmed incidents of livestock depredation ("Wolf Reintroduction"). Furthermore, many ranchers argue that the wolves pass diseases to their cattle (Kirkwood). Hal Herring's article "Dogs Perish in Wolf Wars" found in the journal *Field and Stream* warns that Wyoming's ranchers are taking extreme measures:

indent ½" → Poisoned hot dogs and meatballs have been showing up along roads near Wyoming's Grand Teton National Park, and authorities suspect that the baits are an angry response to the reintroduction of wolves to the area. In 2002 the USFWS upset many state residents by rejecting Wyoming's plan to manage its growing wolf population.

Ironically, although some pets have suffered and died from these poisonings, no wolves have been killed (Herring). Tempers remain out of control as local residents continue to believe these wolves may destroy their livelihood.

Despite these worries, Thomas McIntyre in "Big Bad Wolves" from the journal *Field and Stream* reports that following the reintroduction of gray wolves, the "predicted decimation of the northern Yellowstone elk herd... has proven wrong." Wyoming's Game and Fish director Terry Cleveland claims that "elk and wolves ...are coexisting" (qtd. in McIntyre). Once Wyoming

LONG QUOTATIONS:

Long quotations (four lines or more) are indented 0.5 inches from the left margin, but the right margin is consistent with the rest of the text. The parenthetical note follows the final period of a long quote; this is the only situation where the parenthetical note will be outside of the end punctuation. No quotation marks are added.

INDIRECT QUOTATIONS:

If what you quote or paraphrase is itself a quotation, put "qtd. in" before the source.

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TRANSITIONS:

Be sure to use transitions at the beginning of your paragraph. For a list of good transitions, check an online source or a writing textbook.

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joins Idaho and Montana in submitting a management plan for their hunting, the USFWS will move toward delisting the wolves. In September of 2009 the *Wolf Reintroduction and Recovery Timeline*, posted online by the Idaho Fish and Game, announced the first regulated wolf hunt in Idaho. On the other hand, Wyoming wants to treat wolves as predators rather than trophy-game. Cleveland continues by saying, “If we don’t get wolves delisted [so they can be hunted in all three states], the elk hunting opportunity is going to drop” (qtd. in McIntyre). Meanwhile the hostilities between the federal management plan and the state’s residents continue to cause problems, but the wolves remain a fairly strong presence even in states where they have been delisted.

These wolves are even improving the ecology of the area. First of all, according to Dr. Joel Berger, a biologist at the University of Nevada at Reno, some worried about the survival of the moose. After all “we were dealing with moose that had not seen or smelled...wolves for about 45 to 70 years” (qtd. in Fountain). Dr. Berger found that “moose [learned] to be wary of new predators within a generation” (Fountain). All in all, modern hunters have no need to worry about the ability of moose to adjust to this new predator. Also, since wolves leave behind “carcasses of large ungulates like elk and bison” in the winter, Norm Bishop, a retired Park Service employee notes, “Now more ravens, eagles, and wolverines are ...finding something [to eat] that’s already been killed by another animal”(qtd. in Kirkwood). These other animals are doing better since the reintroduction of wolves.

Another consequence of wolf introduction is the effect on trees. In 1997, Bill Ripple, a professor with the Department of Forest Resources at Oregon State University, investigated the decline of aspen in Yellowstone’s northern range. Ripple concluded “wolves eat elk and elk eat

ALTERING QUOTES:

When inserting your own words into a direct quote, be sure to surround them with brackets.

When deleting words from a direct quote, be sure to use ellipses, three dots in the middle of a sentence. Use a forth dot to signify the period at the end of the sentence. There is no need to use ellipses at the beginning or end of a direct quote.

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CONCLUSION:

Your conclusion paragraphs need to repeat the main points of your paper, but do not copy your thesis word for word.

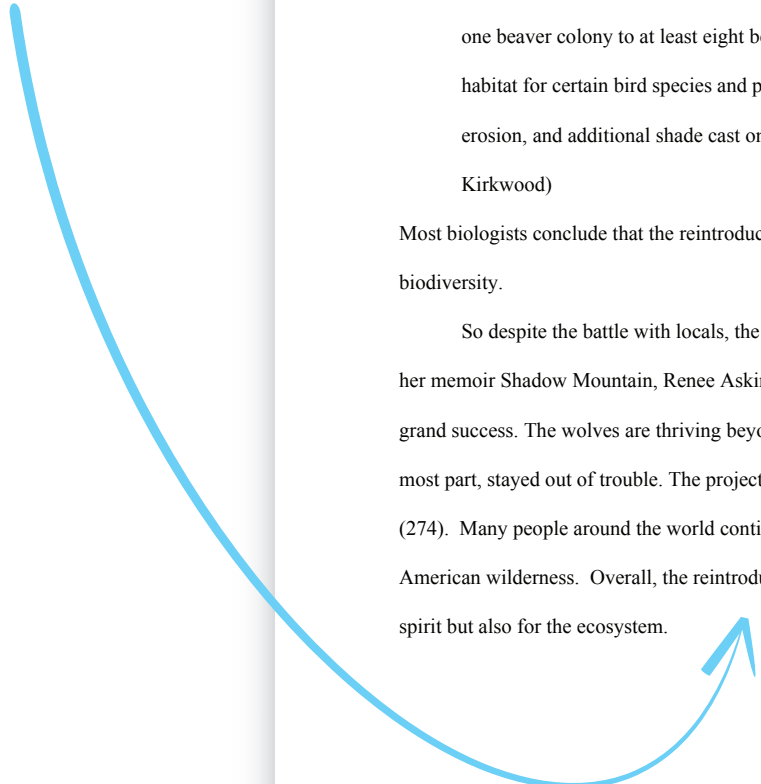
Doe 4

aspen, so we believed that the lack of the wolves actually led to the decimation of aspen” (qtd. in Kirkwood). He goes on to claim that since the wolves have come back, both aspen and cottonwood are coming back (Kirkwood). Furthermore, as a result of the increase in woody growth, biodiversity of animals is also increasing as explained by Ripple:

Willows provide more food for beavers.... Yellowstone’s northern range has gone from one beaver colony to at least eight beaver colonies.... Willow species also provide better habitat for certain bird species and provide for a stream-bank protection, decreased erosion, and additional shade cast on the water, which is good for trout. (qtd. in Kirkwood)

Most biologists conclude that the reintroduction of the gray wolf has been beneficial to biodiversity.

So despite the battle with locals, the wolves have returned to the Yellowstone area. In her memoir *Shadow Mountain*, Renee Askins notes that the “wolf recovery effort has been...a grand success. The wolves are thriving beyond our most extravagant dreams and have, for the most part, stayed out of trouble. The project is...a shining light among conservation efforts” (274). Many people around the world continue to visit Yellowstone to view this symbol of the American wilderness. Overall, the reintroduction of the gray wolf has been not only good for the spirit but also for the ecosystem.



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WORKS CITED:

Works cited should be double spaced. Use a hanging indent of 0.5 inches and list sources in alphabetical order.

Never number entries in your works cited.

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Works Cited

- Askins, Renee. *Shadow Mountain*. New York: Doubleday, 2002.
- Fountain, Henry. "Moose Must Relearn Lessons in Survival." *The New York Times* (Feb. 20, 2001 pD2 (N) pF2 (L) col 2: F2 (L)). *Student Resource Center-Gold*. Gale. 5 March 2010 <<http://find.galegroup.com>>.
- Herring, Hal. "Dogs Perish in Wolf Wars." *Field & Stream* 109.5 (Sept. 1, 2004): 25. *Student Resource Center-Gold*. Gale. 5 March 2010 <<http://find.galegroup.com>>.
- Kirkwood, Scott. "Wolf & Consequence." *National Parks* 80.1 (2006): 29. *Mas Ultra-School Edition*. EBSCO. Web. 4 Mar. 2010 <<http://web.ebscohost.com>>.
- McIntyre, Thomas. "Big Bad Wolves." *Field & Stream*. 111.10. (March 2007): 17. *Student Resource Center-Gold*. Gale. 5 Mar. 2010 <<http://find.galegroup.com>>.
- Miller, Gary. "Return of the Gray Wolf." *National Geographic Explorer* 8.2 (2008): 8-13. *Student Resource Center Gold*. Gale. 1 June 2010. <<http://find.galegroup.com>>.
- "Wolf Reintroduction." *Wikipedia*. 18 Jan. 2010. Web. 9 Mar. 2010 <<http://en.wikipedia.org>>.
- Wolf Reintroduction and Recovery Timeline*. Idaho Fish and Game, Mar.-Apr. March 31, 2010. Web. 1 June 2010. <<http://fishgame.idaho.gov>>.

SAVING:

Save your file often while you write. Be sure to save a final copy before you print and hand it in.

PRINTING:

Print only on good quality, white 8½ x 11 inch paper.