

# Model MLA Paper: A Visual Formatting Guide

This is a **heading**. In MLA, you don't need a title page, but it is recommended to have a 4-line header with your name, teacher, class, and date.

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English 4900  
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Doe 1

Create an original **title** for your project and place it in the center of the page.

The Unity of Story in Tolkien's Works

Story in the form of myth, legend, and song serves to unify all elements of Tolkien's *The Silmarillion*, *The Hobbit*, and *The Lord of the Rings*. Even though each story hinges on a previous one, connecting each situation with all situations. The legend, and song within the stories to connect them and hint at a continuation of the written pages.

These titles are in *italics* because they are books. **Long works** like books, magazines, and newspapers are always in *italics*. **Shorter works** like short stories, songs, and poems are denoted by quotation marks ("Title"), without italics.

**Double space** the whole paper. This is standard for all style manuals, unless you are instructed otherwise.

*The Hobbit* is the first story having to do with the Ring, thus bringing its adventurous tale into the unifying mix of Tolkien's works. Many key characters are introduced, such as Bilbo Baggins, Gollum, and Gandalf. In this work, song is used to connect Bilbo to Gollum when they play a game of riddles and discover that they know many of the same ones (*The Hobbit* 76-77). In this way, Tolkien introduces the saga of the Ring, unifying this book with *The Lord of the Rings*. Song is also used to introduce the spiders in Mirkwood related to Ungoliat, from *The Silmarillion*, and later to Shelob, from *The Lord of the Rings*, when Bilbo sings to escape them (158-59). The myths of the ancient past are ushered in with the dwarves, who sing a dirge to explain the history of their feud with the *The Silmarillion*. Thus song a works.

*The Lord of the Rings* star

**In-text citations** usually include the author (last name) and location of the quote or information that's being used.  
Example: (Tolkien 76-77).

In this case, the author's name, Tolkien, was mentioned earlier in the paragraph, so it does not need to be included in the first in-text citation. Since more than one Tolkien work was mentioned, we included the title (*The Hobbit* 76-77).

When citing the same work again (158-159), only the page numbers are needed. The only reason to include *The Hobbit* again is if a different work is referenced between the citations.