

MLA Paper Presentation Format

Hill / 2009

General guidelines:

1. Use **size 12** of an easy to read font. (e.g., **Times New Roman**)
2. **Margins** should be one inch all around.
3. **Double space** the entire essay, including the heading.

Beginning:

7. The **first sentence** of your essay appears below the title (no extra spaces!) and **indented** five spaces (one tab) from the left margin

Quotation Citation:

8. To cite **SHORT quotations**
 - Enclose the quotation within **double quotation marks**.
 - In parentheses, indicate the **author's last name** and the **page number(s)** of the quotation. (In the example, the author's name is not included because it is given in the opening of the paragraph.)
 - Periods, commas, and semicolons** should appear after the parenthetical citation.
 - Question marks and exclamation points** should appear within the quotation marks if they are a part of the quoted passage but after the parenthetical citation if they are a part of your text.

Heading:

4. The heading should be placed flush with the left margin of the page. Your heading should include **your name**, your **teacher's name**, the **course name**, and the **date**. The heading should be double spaced.

Page Numbers:

5. Your **last name** and the **page number** should appear in the upper right hand corner, one half inch from the top and flush with the right margin of **EACH** page of your paper.

Essay Title:

6. Your **title** appears on the first page of the paper below the heading, centered, with **no** quotation marks, underlining, or bold face type. Do not include extra spaces above or below the title.

Long Quotation Citation:

9. To cite **LONG quotations** (**4 or more lines of prose** or **3 or more lines of poetry**):
 - Start the quotation on a new line, **indented one inch** from the left margin.
 - Do **not** enclose quotation in quotation marks
 - Maintain **double-spacing**.
 - Parenthetical citation should come after the closing punctuation mark.

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English 3-4, Class 1

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Piggy's Death and the End of Civilization

In *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding, Piggy's death symbolizes the destruction of reason and civilization. Until his death, Piggy believed in the power of the conch, the object that had represented democracy and order to the boys. Even when it seems the rest had been taken over by savagery, he raises the shell above his head and yells, "I tell you, I got the conch!"

(164). To Piggy, there is still hope that order is possible. His last desperate speech is his final attempt to bring reason to the increasingly chaotic conditions. As the boys boo and shout and throw stones, Piggy tries to get them to think about what they are doing. "Which is better - to have rules and agree, or to hunt and kill?...law and rescue, or hunting and breaking things up?"

(164). Piggy hopes to persuade the boys to resume a life of rules and laws and agreement, a life that he believes is the only hope for survival. But it is too late. One of the boys deliberately pushes a huge rock that falls onto Piggy:

The rock struck Piggy a glancing blow from chin to knee; the conch exploded into a thousand white fragments and ceased to exist....Piggy fell forty feet and landed on his back across the square red rock in the sea...the water boiled white and pink over the rock; and when it went, sucking back again, the body of Piggy was gone. (165)

Piggy and the conch are not merely damaged by the rock: they no longer exist. This act of violence eliminates the last elements of order and reason among the boys. For the remainder of

the novel, until the scene on the beach, the boys hunt for food, huntin

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Note: Essay example is not to scale.