



MLA Formatting Tips

Uniform formatting and citation is critical to ensuring the anonymity of IPPF participants. Moreover, following style guidelines is important toward maintaining academic credibility in the IPPF and beyond. Accordingly, the IPPF has adopted the MLA (Modern Language Association) style guide as the standard for all written submissions throughout the competition. The IPPF Rules read: *The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers will govern the format for all papers.*

MLA formatting is often used for academic writing in the liberal arts and humanities. Particularly if attending school in the United States, students will likely encounter the MLA style in their university careers. Not only does consistent and correct formatting indirectly benefit a team's arguments by bolstering their ethical appeal, it *directly* affects the judges' scoring via the category "punctuation and grammar."

In addition to the aids listed in the rules – www.mla.org and www.writinghelp-central.com – a comprehensive and easy-to-use guide to MLA formatting can be found at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>.

In the past, there has been some confusion regarding proper MLA formatting, so here are some tips, especially relevant to the IPPF:

1. **Basics:** Papers should be double-spaced, Times New Roman, one-inch margins, with the page # in the upper right-hand corner. Please, **DO NOT INCLUDE SCHOOL/TEAM NAME ANYWHERE OUTSIDE OF THE TITLE PAGE.** (This overrides standard MLA procedure.)
2. **Works cited page:** The last pages of the paper should contain the works cited, giving properly-formatted citations for *every* source cited in the paper. This is not a bibliography; no need to include merely related (but not cited) research. Citation generators like citationmachine.net can be helpful. Note that the works cited page does **not** count toward the word count. The works cited page need not be annotated.
3. **In-text parenthetical citation:** In the body of the paper, sources are cited in parentheses after a given reference, quote or paraphrase. These use short citations, giving the source author and – if available/applicable – page number(s). If no author is available, some other short, identifiable marker should be used (e.g., an abbreviated title). Multiple citations in the same parenthetical reference should be separated by semi-colons. Note that a parenthetical citation may reference an idea contained in more than one sentence preceding it. Please, **DO NOT USE FOOTNOTES.**
4. **Title page:** The IPPF requires that every paper have a title page (another departure from standard in MLA style). See the IPPF Rules for further specifications.

5. A note on plagiarism: Students should provide proper citation for **all** factual claims or ideas/analysis/wording borrowed from others – **not** just when quoting directly from a source. The IPPF maintains a zero-tolerance policy toward plagiarism.