



MLA Formatting Notes

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Notes on the Essay

Page Numbers: Page numbers go on the top, right-hand side of the page with your surname.

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Double Spacing: The entire essay must be double-spaced, including the title, block quotations, and the list of Works Cited.

John Doe
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Headings: Place your name, your instructor's name, the course code, and the date at the beginning of the essay.

Ambiguity and Ambivalence

Title: Provide an informative title that includes the name(s) of the work(s) of literature under examination. Centre the title on the first page of the essay, but do not underline it.

In F.R. Scott's "Mural"

Punctuation: Throughout the essay (including the title), place the names of short stories and poems in quotation marks and italicize the names of long poems, novels, and plays. Be consistent.

In "The Ambiguous Social Vision of F.R. Scott," Wanda Campbell asserts that Scott is "a divided man" (12) because his politics are so often at odds with his poetry. At least one other critic shares Campbell's assessment (Dudek 33). Such views probably stem from a poem like "Mural," in which the poet envisions an Edenic universe where "All violence [is] streamlined into zeal / For one colossal commonweal" (57-58), but which nevertheless gives rise to all the worst excesses of Huxley's *Brave New World*:

Margins: Use one-inch margins around the perimeter of your page. Indent paragraphs one-half inch (or one tab) and indent offset quotations one inch (or two tabs).

When all our food comes fresh and clean
From some unbreakable machine,
And crops are raised in metal trays
Beneath the ultra-violet rays. (Scott, "Mural" 5-8)

MLA Style: If the context of your essay identifies the source of a direct quotation, place the page or line number in the parenthetical reference (see sample sentence 1). If the context does not identify the source, place the last name of the author of the quotation with the page or line number in the parentheses (see sample sentence 2). Use no other punctuation.

A close reading of Scott's "Mural" reveals the extent to which Scott's divided

Integration: Notice how punctuation works around direct textual quotations. A comma or period at the end of a quotation, for example, never goes inside the quotation itself, but it always follows the parenthetical reference (see sample inline quotation of "Mural"). Use block quotations only if you wish to cite five lines or more of prose or four lines or more of poetry. If you use block quotations, you do not need to use quotation marks. At the end of a block quotation, the period precedes the parenthetical reference (see sample block quotation of "Mural").

Notes on the Page of Works Cited

Format: Rules for page numbering, double-spacing, quotation marks, and italics still apply on the Works Cited page. Use a hanging indentation of one-half inch (or one tab) for entries that surpass one line.

Heading: Centre the heading at the top of the page, but do *not* underline it, italicize it, or place it in bold type. Use “Works Cited,” not “Bibliography” or “References.”

Abbreviations: You may abbreviate “University Press” to “UP” and eliminate words like “Publishers,” “Incorporated,” etc. from Works Cited entries. Only in the Works Cited, however, may you use any abbreviations.

Alphabetization: Alphabetize your entries by the author’s surname. If you use more than one work by the same author, alphabetize them by the title of the work (excluding articles like “a(n)” or “the”). Use three dashes to indicate subsequent works by the same author (see sample entry for F.R. Scott).

Structure: Notice the differences between the methods for citing books (see sample entry for *Brave New World*), poems from collections (“Mural”), articles from periodicals (Campbell), and articles from books (Dudek, Jones).

Cross-Referencing: If you cite more than one article or poem from the same collection or anthology, use cross-references. Cite the collection or anthology alphabetically according to its editor(s) (see sample entry for Djwa and MacDonald). Then, cite each individual poem or article alphabetically according to its author, then use the last name(s) of the editor(s) of the collection with the page number (Dudek, Jones). This method reduces unnecessary repetition.

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Works Cited

Campbell, Wanda. “The Ambiguous Social Vision of F.R. Scott.” *Canadian Poetry*, no. 27, 1990, pp. 1-14.

Djwa, Sandra and R. St J. MacDonald, eds. *On F.R. Scott: His Contributions to Law, Literature, and Politics*. McGill-Queen’s UP, 1983.

Dudek, Louis. “Polar Opposites in F.R. Scott’s Poetry.” Djwa and MacDonald, pp. 31-43.

Huxley, Aldous. *Brave New World*. Chatto and Windus, 1932.

Jones, D.G. “Private Space and Public Space.” Djwa and MacDonald, pp. 44-54.

Scott, F.R. “Lakeshore.” *Northern Review*, vol. 3, no. 6, 1950, pp. 12-13.

---. “Mural.” *Overture: Poems*. Ryerson, 1945, pp. 59-60.

Additional Information

Please see “MLA Cross-Referencing” for more information.

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