

Ethnobotany Research Papers:

Requirements for the Final Copy

Introduction

- Start with an engaging anecdote **BEFORE** you define ethnobotany
- Use sensory descriptions
- Examples...

Great Intro #1:

The scene may seem familiar: tumbling out of bed and stumbling around in the kitchen, you begin your day. But wait. It cannot begin properly without that daily ritual, the morning cup of coffee. The aroma swirls throughout the room. What can compare to the richness and fullness of that first cup of coffee?

Americans lead the world in coffee drinking, consuming an average of 3 cups of coffee per person per day (Pennybacker 18). Gourmet coffee houses are sprouting up all over the place. But what is the real story behind this dark brown liquid?...

Great Intro #2

The cargo ship eases into port. Giant ropes are carefully extended from the deck and secured to enormous tie-downs along the dock. An hour later, giant nets filled with ripe bananas are hoisted from the hold and transferred to the terra firma. Pallets loaded with burlap sacks of coffee are likewise lifted to the line of waiting train cars. Within days, these goods will fill the shelves of America's supermarkets and the bellies of America's populace. It is hard to realize that all along the way, the fiber in the slender stalks of the jute plant are responsible for the safe shipping of all these goods. Used in the enormous anchor ropes of the ships, the tough nets filled with bananas, and the durable burlap bags of coffee, the modest jute plant has become essential to our modern way of life; in return, humans have planted jute across over half of the globe. The study of this relationship between people and plants is known as ethnobotany...

Great Intro #3:

The sweet potato is a vital source of nutrition relied upon by people all over the world as a source of carbohydrates and essential vitamins & minerals. It is ranked among the top ten food crops produced in developing nations around the globe (Sweet Potato Facts). The relationship between this remarkable root and humanity goes back centuries, if not millennia...

Use Section Headings

(AFTER your great intro)

I. Background

II. Cultural Significance

A. Artistic

B. Religious

C. Medicinal

III. Environmental Impact

(as above; refer to your notes)

Citing Sources

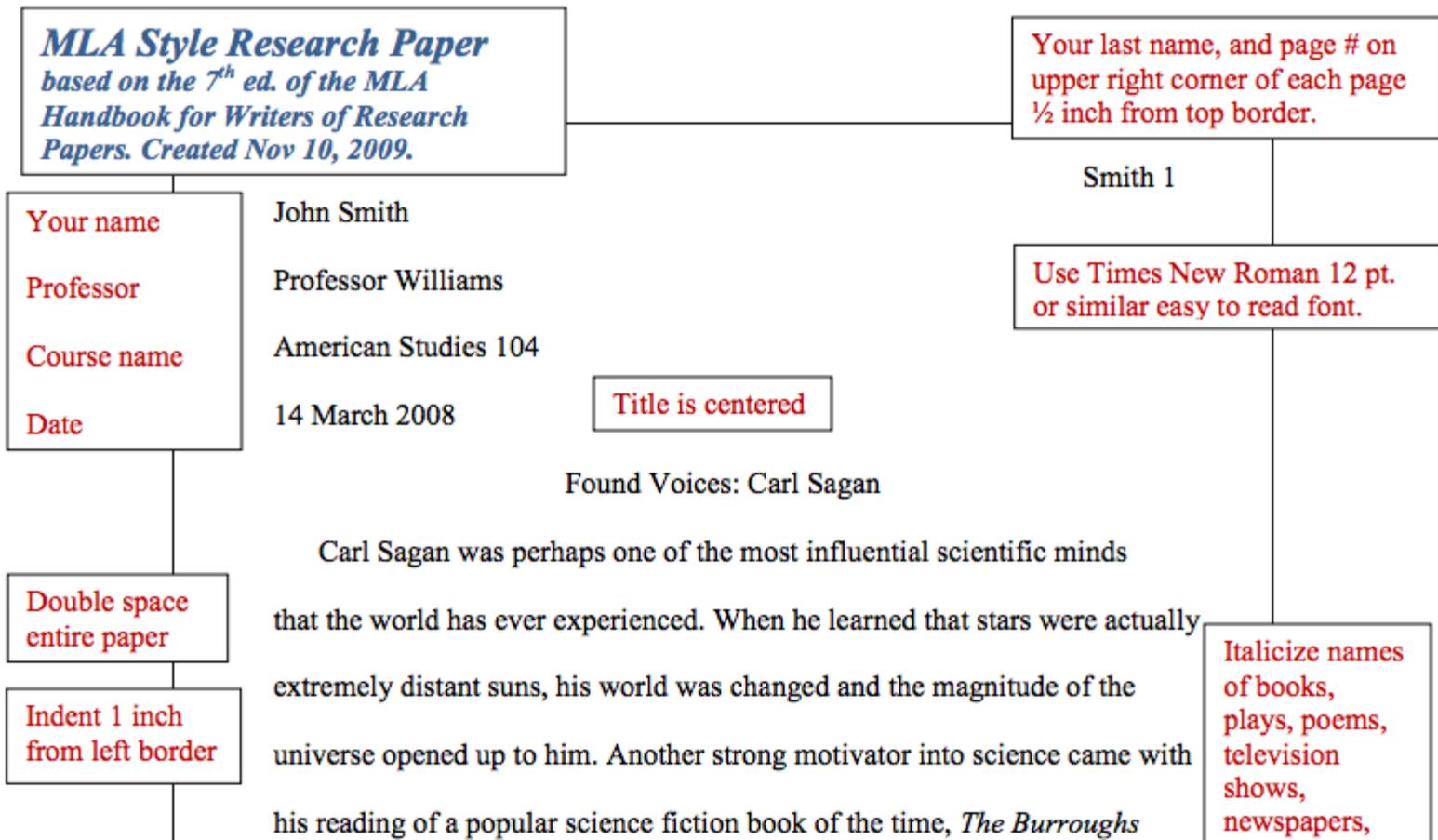
- Within text

The effects of logging have reduced the forest's biodiversity by 37% (Gilman).

- Cite sources whenever you:
 - a. quote an author
 - b. rely on an author's research
 - c. cite data that isn't common knowledge

MLA Format

Didn't see this page on my website?



Last comments...

- Read through your paper and my comments once before you start revising
- Make all corrections noted in the text
- Margin notes
 - a. questions - make sure you answer them
 - b. comments - make changes suggested
 - c. "research more" - try to find more info; in most cases, it's out there.

Questions?

- Final paper due Monday, May 6, before we go on the field trip.
- Tactile Fair: see handout.