



FORMATTING TITLES AT A GLANCE

Capitalizing Titles

Capitalize the major words of titles. Minor words—articles, prepositions, and coordinating conjunctions—are not capitalized unless they are the first or last word of a title or subtitle.

“Why Boys Don’t Play with Dolls” (a short essay)

In the Heat of the Night (a film)

Formatting Titles

Use italics for titles of larger, whole works (e.g. books, magazines, entire websites) and quotation marks for titles of shorter works that are parts of larger works (e.g. poems, articles, a short work from a website). In other words, cite entire works using italics and smaller works or parts of works using quotation marks. (Note: underlining is no longer used in MLA format.)

- *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft* (book)
- “House Mothers and Haunted Daughters: Shirley Jackson and Female Gothic” (journal article)

Short works (works that are part of longer works) are formatted in quotation marks

Long, whole works are italicized



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