



Writing a Title

A Title Should Be:

- A key to the text.
- A short, catchy phrase.
- An interesting idea.

Types of Titles

A Direct Title clearly states the topic of the essay.

Ex: The Right to Smoke in Public Places

An Indirect Title hints at the topic of the essay.

Ex: No Smoking, Please

Some Helpful Hints

- Capitalize main words.
- Do not capitalize prepositions (to, from, etc.), conjunctions (and, but, etc.), or articles (a, an, the) unless they come at the first of the title or are over five letters in length.
- Do not use a period after the title.
- Do not use quotation marks unless part of your title includes a quotation.
- Do not underline your title.
- Your title should be something you have created; do not title a paper the same name as the work you have read (i.e. A paper on "A Rose for Emily" should not be titled "A Rose for Emily.>").
- Avoid trite titles.

Where to Put a Title

MLA

The title is placed on the first page, the line before your text and after your heading. For more help, refer to *The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 6th edition.

APA

The title is placed on the first line of the title page. For more help, refer to *The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 5th edition.

Turabian

Usually, the title is placed on the title page under the name of the university. For more help, refer to *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 6th edition.