



MLA General Paper Formatting Rules

A-State Online Writing Center

MLA 8th addition

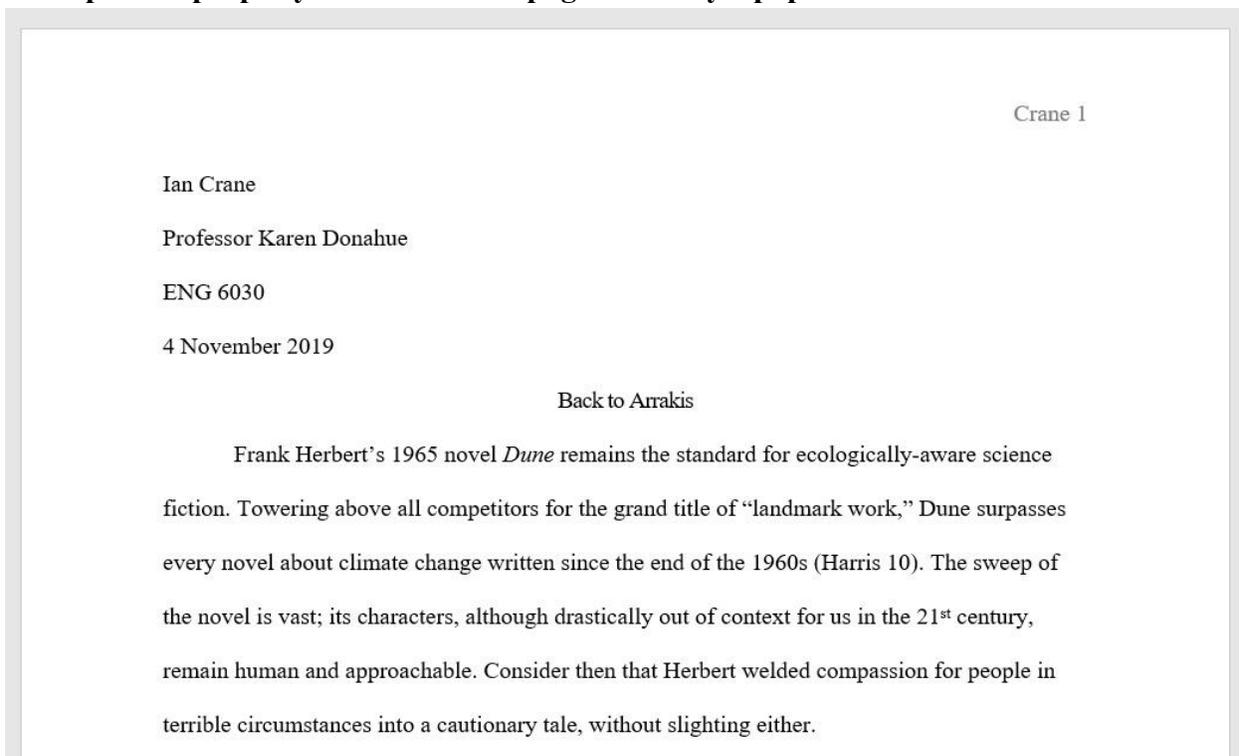
- Paper size will always be 8.5 x 11, unless specifically instructed otherwise
- Use 1-inch margins on all sides
- Align your margins to the left side of your paper.
- Each line of text throughout an MLA paper is double-spaced
- Choose a common font like Times New Roman, Arial, or Calibri. Font size should be 12 point. Make sure the font you choose clearly distinguishes italics from regular style.
- Indent the first line of each paragraph by one-half inch from the left margin. Using the “Tab” key to do so will ensure uniformity from paragraph to paragraph.
- Create a header that numbers all pages consecutively in the upper right-hand corner, one-half inch from the top and flush with the right margin. (Note: Your instructor may ask that you omit the number on your first page. Always follow your instructor's guidelines.)
- Put your last name in your header, immediately to the left of your page number.

In the top left corner of your paper, 1 inch from the top margin and 1 inch from the left margin, place the following information on the first page only:

- Your first and last name
- Your instructor's name
- Your class's name and number or section
- Date of submission written as day, month and year. Abbreviate all months except May, June, and July.

Place the title of your paper on a new line, double-spaced. Center your title, even if it is longer than one line.

Example of a properly formatted first page MLA-style paper:

The image shows a sample of a first page of an MLA-style paper. The page is enclosed in a light gray border. In the top right corner, the page number "Crane 1" is centered. On the left side, the student's name "Ian Crane", instructor's name "Professor Karen Donahue", course "ENG 6030", and date "4 November 2019" are listed vertically. In the center of the page, the title "Back to Arrakis" is centered. Below the title, a paragraph of text discusses Frank Herbert's 1965 novel *Dune*, mentioning its status as a landmark work and its ecological awareness.

Note that your instructor's directions take precedence over other directions. Always follow your instructor's directions.