William Shakespeare and Elizabethan England Research Project

Your first task is to select at least 5 of the following topics. Each of these topics will make up one section of your project. While you are researching, you will be taking notes using MLA documentation.

What is MLA Documentation Style?

- MLA stands for the Modern Language Association, and MLA style refers to a set of specified guidelines for formatting research based papers and projects. There are a number of different documentation styles; however, most humanities based courses, like your English class, use MLA documentation style.
- Using MLA documentation style provides writers with a system for giving credit to the writers referenced or quoted in a paper or project. Through the use of parenthetical citations and a works cited page, readers can locate the publication information of the original source material.
- Proper citation is important for a number of reasons.
  - The proper use of MLA style shows the credibility of writers; such writers show accountability to their source material.
  - Most importantly, the use of MLA style can protect writers from accusations of plagiarism--the purposeful or accidental use of source material by other writers without giving appropriate credit.

You may choose to do a paper (where your information is presented in text form only), a poster, which includes pictures or a PowerPoint presentation.

Topic Choices:

1. Theatre in the 1500’s
2. The history of comedies
3. The history of tragedies
4. Women's roles in Elizabethan England
5. Men's roles in Elizabethan England
6. Elizabethan poetry
7. Other significant Elizabethan writers
8. Elizabethan music
9. The story of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” - history, various adaptations, and references in pop culture
10. Elizabethan actors/actresses
11. Queen Elizabeth
12. Elizabethan class system
13. Historical events of the Elizabethan Era
14. Shakespeare in London
15. Shakespeare at Home
Resources:

After you have decided upon a topic, you will use a number of sources in the library to research your topic. You will need to find at least:

1. two book sources

2. A general encyclopedia source

3. Two electronic database articles – (look at EbscoHost, for example)

4. A scholarly web page

Research Steps:

You will need to complete the following steps in your research:

1. Find the five sources you need (books, encyclopedia, two database articles, and a web page) and complete the appropriate MLA citation sheets for each.

2. Copy or print the article for each source and attach it to the correct MLA citation sheet.

3. After locating all of your sources, you will need to take notes on your sources and find 5 interesting facts for each source. You must keep track of the page numbers where you find your interesting facts or quotations.

4. Gather all your notes together, sorted by topic.

6. Create your project. Your project must correctly use MLA parenthetical citations and have a correctly formatted Works Cited page attached. This page will be in alphabetical order, according to the first word of the citation.

MLA parenthetical citations are used whenever you use a quotation in your writing. Following the quotation, at the end of the sentence, you will include information that indicates where the quotation came from.

This is what parenthetical citations look like:

In 1930, the Modern Merchandising Bureau was set up in New York “for the express purpose of manufacturing and merchandising styles adapted from the movies” (LaValley 88).

You’ll notice that the author’s name goes first, followed by the page number. In order to make your parenthetical references clear, you will use the information given at the beginning of your bibliographical reference in your works cited. For example, if you
found an article, but not author was given, you would use the title instead, if that was the first piece of information given in the citation.

If you refer to the article or book within the body of the sentence, there is no need to state it again in the reference. In this case, you only need to use the page number.

**Project Evaluation:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POINTS AVAILABLE</th>
<th>AREA EVALUATED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td><strong>Notetaking:</strong> MLA citations sheets are completed for each source; each topic has at least 5 interesting facts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td><strong>Note-keeping:</strong> all research material is kept in an orderly fashion and handed in with project.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td><strong>Project:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Parenthetical Citations:</strong> Project contains the minimum 5 interesting facts/events for each topic correctly cited back to original source using MLA parenthetical documentation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td><strong>Works Cited:</strong> A works cited page with the required five sources correctly utilizes MLA documentation style.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td><strong>Creativity/Originality:</strong> Obvious time and effort went into creating the project which clearly displays the topic of the research (title), uses graphics, text, and/or design elements, and clearly relates to the study of Shakespeare.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td><strong>Mechanics:</strong> writing is clearly accurate and has been proofread. Few errors in spelling, grammar or punctuation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td><strong>Content:</strong> material is presented in proper paragraph or topical format. Use of accurate language, interesting facts and personal flair.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td><strong>TOTAL MARKS</strong></td>
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