

Follow format guidelines for MLA and APA.

LO7

While pages 370–387 describe some of the key features of MLA and APA formats, the sample pages that follow show you these formats.

MLA Format at a Glance

You can find a complete model in MLA style, Stevie Jeung’s “I Did *Not* Get My Spaghetti-O’s’: Death Row Consumption in the Popular Media,” at the end of chapter 28 (pages 362–369). Below, however, are the basic rules for formatting the first page, middle pages, and the works-cited page in MLA format.

MLA Paper (Excerpt)

The heading (in MLA format) supplies identifying details.

The title (centered) indicates the paper’s topic and theme.

The writer opens with a chronological catalog of executed people and last suppers.

The intro zeros in on the topic, focuses on what is odd or difficult to explain, and announces a search for explanations.

The analysis focuses on specific examples in film and television.

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American Studies 101D
17 February 2008

Jeung 1

“I Did *Not* Get My Spaghetti-O’s’:

Death Row Consumption in the Popular Media

Jesus Christ: Roast lamb, matzo, wine; around AD 30. Perry Smith and Richard Hickock: Identical meals of shrimp, French fries, garlic bread, ice cream and strawberries with whipped cream; 1965. Timothy McVeigh: Two pints of Ben & Jerry’s mint chocolate chip ice cream: 2001. Tony Soprano: Holsten’s onion rings; 2007. Karl Chamberlein: final meal yet to be consumed; 15 days from now.

While executions historically demand a certain degree of morbid curiosity, the last meals of the condemned seem to stimulate heightened interest. Indeed, a prisoner’s final feast has almost become an event in its own right, not only for the prisoner, but for the prison staff and the public. Web sites, novels, movies, television shows, newspapers, and even cookbooks report, dissect, criticize, and speculate regarding last meals real and imagined. When confronted with the ultimate consumption of dying people in so many areas of our popular media, the truth becomes alarmingly clear: This is odd behavior. There must be some reason that we institutionally allow our most hated and feared prisoners to choose and enjoy their final meal before we execute them, and there must be some reason that we like to watch and reproduce the event in popular culture. . . .