



Global 9 RESEARCH & WRITING GUIDE

Mr. Smith's Class



Overview

The Global 9 Research Paper is an opportunity for you to gain expertise regarding a specific topic from history. You can gain this knowledge through research using books, databases, e-books and websites related to your topic. However, as you do, you must make sure that the sources that you are collecting are academically legitimate sources.

Academically Legitimate Sources

Though there are a variety of sources that you can use to gain information about your chosen civilization, not all are appropriate for a high school level paper; this can be especially true with websites.

When selecting a source to cite in your paper consider the following questions:

- Does this source mainly consist of fact rather than opinion?*
- Was this source written by someone who is an expert on the topic?*
- Was this source generated by an adult (and not a student)?*
- Was this source created by someone who makes a living researching and writing about the subject matter (a professional)?*

If the answer to the above four questions is "Yes", then you are likely dealing with an academically legitimate source. Such sources can be cited in your paper and count towards your required number of sources on your Works Cited Page. There can be exceptions to the rules above, but if you feel that you have found such a source and want to use it for your paper anyways, be sure to check with your teacher before citing it.

The above rules are especially important when dealing with websites as there is a great variation in the quality, accuracy and reliability of online sources. In general, here is a list of acceptable website types that conform to the above rules:

- .gov Government-hosted research cites.
- .edu University-hosted research cites (be careful that you're not looking at a student-created site, however).
- .org Publications of independent, professional organizations.
- .com **ONLY A FEW** .com sites will be legitimate sources. Extensions of magazines or television networks will sometimes match the above rules however. These are examples of o.k. sites:
 - www.history.com/
 - www.nationalgeographic.com/
 - www.discovery.com

It is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to only cite and list sources that are academically legitimate. If you select a source that ignores the questions above or proves to be questionable, that will affect your grade on this project.

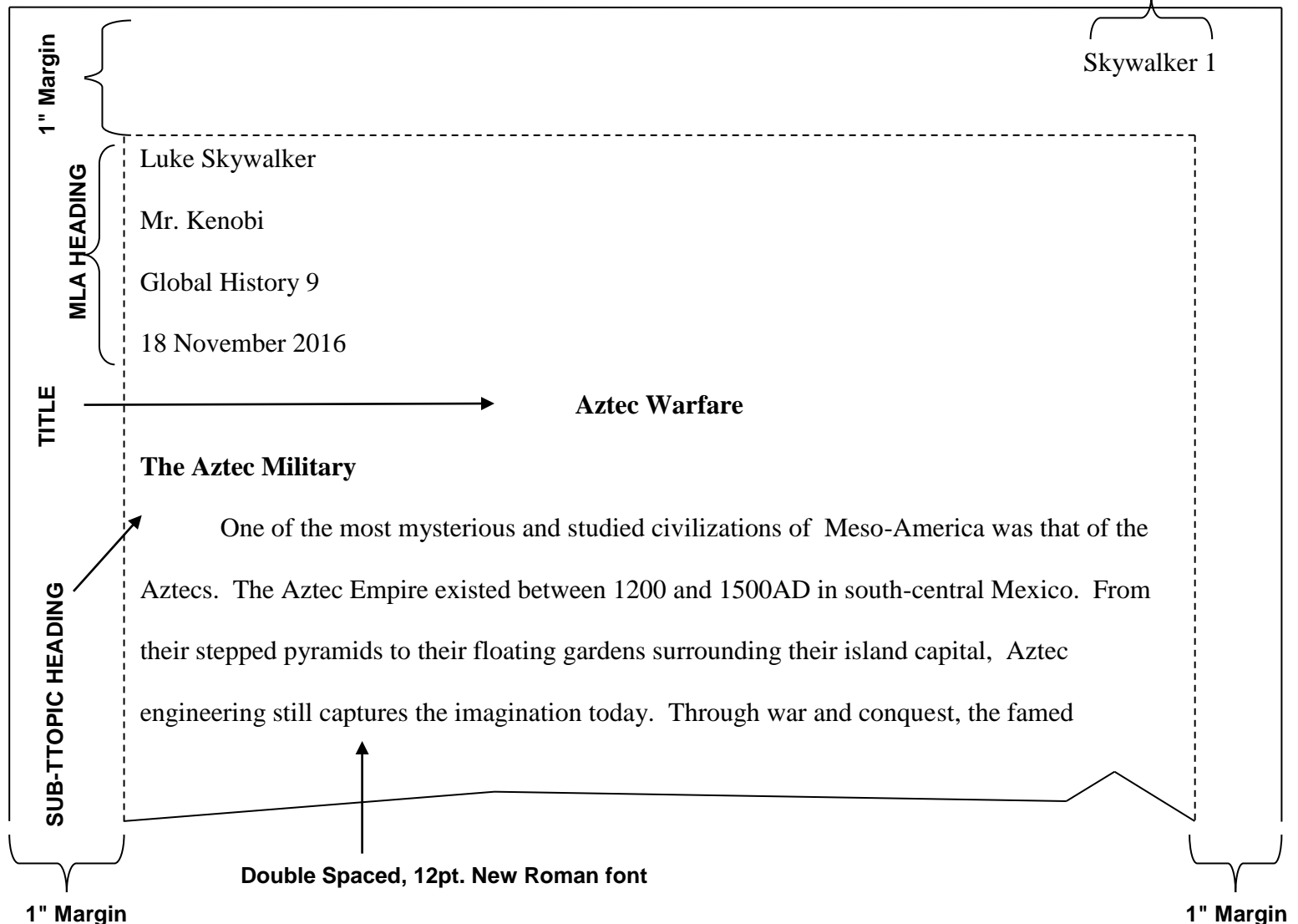
Please note that textbooks, general encyclopedias and class notes ARE NOT cite-able sources.

If in doubt, check the source with your teacher.

MLA Heading and Format

In order to meet the paper's requirements, you must conform the following MLA guidelines:

- Include an MLA Heading (first page only!)
- Use Times New Roman, 12 point font, Double-Spaced
- Use 1 Inch margins all the way around your paper.
- List page numbers (last name_page) on each page including Works Cited.
- Use a bold heading at the beginning of each paper section.



Writing a History Paper...Three Things to Avoid

Always right a history paper in the 3rd person and avoid the following:

- Using "I", "My" or "Me"...do not refer to yourself.
- Using "You"....do not refer to the reader.
- Using "This paper is about"...do not refer to your own writing.

Citing Sources Properly(Parenthetical Citations)

Within your paper, make sure you are citing properly in MLA Format with the Author's Name/Page Number approach (when citing books or electronic books). For example...

The Han Dynasty of China had a greater impact on the civilization than any previous ruling family (Johnson 214).

When citing the same source before coming to another one, just list the page number.

The Han Dynasty of China had a greater impact on the civilization than any previous ruling family (Johnson 214). It brought order to China following an era of chaos. Of all the Han rulers, no one had a greater impact than that of Emperor Wudi(221).

When you change sources, to show you are now citing from a different author/work, be sure to again include the author's name.

The Han Dynasty of China had a greater impact on the civilization than any previous ruling family (Johnson 214). It brought order to China following an era of chaos. Of all the Han rulers, no one had a greater impact than that of Emperor Wudi(221). Wudi led his nation during a golden age of amazing achievements. As historian Molly Kross stated, "Wudi was perhaps not only the greatest ruler in all of Chinese history, but one of the most capable leaders in world history as well"(Kross 14).

(When citing a website) from your Works Cited list within the text of your paper, do as follows...

During the Han era, the Chinese traded with the distant Roman Empire("The Silk Road").

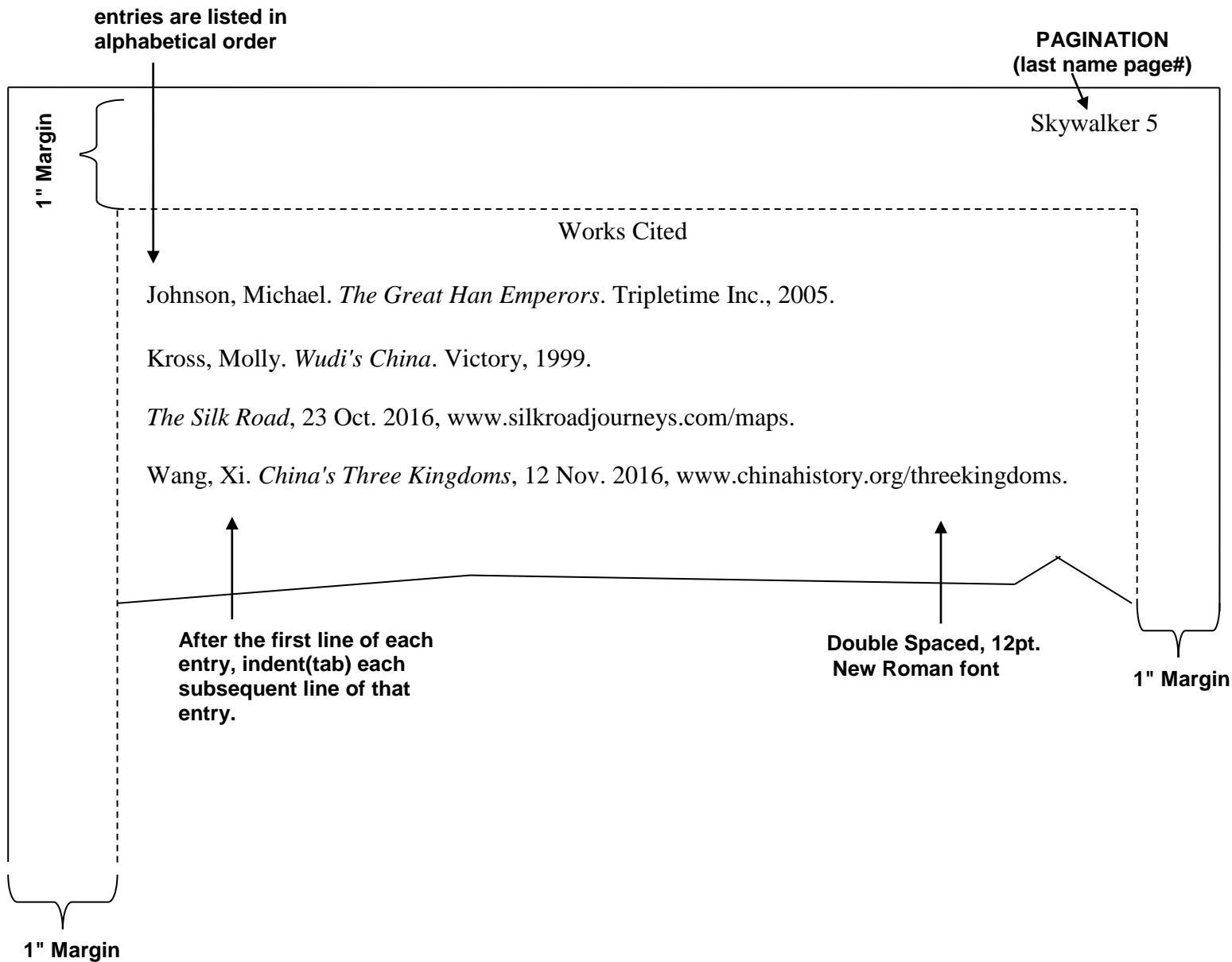
(the above example assumes that the website article is entitled "The Silk Road" and that it has no clear author)

If the author of the web article is identified, you may cite the author's last name instead...

The Three Kingdoms Era marked a complete breakdown of the long period of order experienced under the reign of the Han emperors(Wang).

(the above example cites an idea found in an article posted to an internet website by an author who has a last name of Wang)

Sample Works Cited...



Research Collection for Body Paragraphs

Use the following spaces to collect facts and evidence that you want to be sure to mention in your body paragraphs. There is no section for your Introduction and Conclusion...I suggest that you write those at the end after you have your other paragraphs completed(using information from the body paragraphs).

In each box you can list information you wish to write about in your paper and/or list sources you want to be sure to cite.

•Founding of the Civilization

•Accomplishments of the Civilization

•Struggles of the Civilization

•Important People/Rulers/Leaders of the Civilization

•Fall/Collapse/Decline of the Civilization