

IF IT'S A TITLE OF SOMETHING, WHAT DO I DO TO IT?

Underline/italicize (Long Works):

"Quotation Marks" (Short Works):

(Remember that italics and underlining are used the same when indicating a title of something; you may use italics instead of underlining. Use one or the other, but do not use both.)

Books:

*The Great Gatsby, Of Mice and Men,
A Caribbean Mystery, Don't Sweat the Small
Stuff; It's All Small Stuff, Black Beauty,
The Color Purple, Moby-Dick.*

Chapters, Book Divisions, Short Stories:

Chapters: "Things Are Not Always What They Seem" and "Practical English Grammar." **Short Stories:** "Everyday Use," "Shooting the Elephant," "The Lottery," "The Mast Head," "The Gift of the Magi."

Magazines, Journals, Periodicals:

*Newsweek, Time, Scientific American,
Better Homes and Gardens, GQ,
Seventeen, Glamour, the New Yorker,
Smithsonian, Successful Farming,
New England Journal of Medicine, Written
Communication.*

Articles:

"Icy Words on Global Warming,"
"Stressed Out in Suburbia," "The Night
of the Hackers."

Newspapers:

*USA TODAY, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch,
Chicago Sun-Times, the Wall Street Journal,
the Springfield Journal Register, Illinois Times.*

Poems - Long epic, book-length works:

*The Waste Land, Paradise Lost, Song of Roland,
The Odyssey, Hiawatha, The Iliad, Beowulf.*

Poems - Short poems:

"Mending Wall," "Patterns,"
"Nothing Gold Can Stay," "The Wild Swans
at Coole."

Movies, Films, & Videos:

*The Wizard of Oz, Casablanca, Schindler's List,
The African Queen, Independence Day,
It's a Bug's Life, The Blair Witch Project,
Gone with the Wind, Invasion of the Body Snatchers,
How to Relax.*

Television Series & Radio Programs:

*60 Minutes, Friends, Seinfeld, The Simpsons
Sesame Street, Law and Order, Saturday Night
Live, All Things Considered, E.R.*

T. V. Episodes:

"Homer Meets Godzilla," "Driven to
Extremes," "The Road Not Taken,"
"An Englishman Abroad."

Record Albums, Audio Cassettes, CDs:

Marvin Gaye's *Best of Millennium*,
Here's Patsy Cline, *Sergeant Pepper's Lonely
 Hearts Club Band*, Bonnie Raitt's *Luck of the Draw*,
 Pearl Jam's *Ten*, *Great Verdi Overtures*.

Songs - Single selections:

"I Fall to Pieces," "Mean Disposition,"
 "Love Me Do," "Big Girls Don't Cry,"
 "Mr. Tambourine Man."

Essays - Collections of published works:

Contexts for Composition.

Essays - Single published essays:

Alan Moorehead's "A Most Forgiving
 Ape," "The Power of Negative Thinking,"
 "Procrastination," "Science and Ethics."

Plays, Operas, Ballets, Choreographic Works:

Camelot, *Barefoot in the Park*, *Rent*, *Cats*,
King Lear, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *The Nutcracker*,
The Barber of Seville, *Waiting for Godot*,
 Twyle Thorp's *Brief Fling*, Martha Graham's
Frontier, Mille's *Rodeo*.

Acts, Scenes:**Anthologies - Collections of stories:**

The Norton Anthology of World Masterpieces;
The Best Loved Poems of the American People;
Trio, A Book of Stories, Plays, and Poems.

Musical Compositions, Symphonies (Long works of music):

Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*, Handel's *Water Music*,
 Beethoven's *Moodlight Sonata*, Verdi's *Aida*,
Symphonie Fantastique, Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake*.

Works of visual art - Paintings & Sculptures:

Rodin's *The Thinker*, Michelangelo's *Pieta*,
 Grant Wood's *American Gothic*, O'Keeffe's *Black Iris*

Pamphlets, Bulletins:

Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*, *Facts About Marijuana*.

Comic strips:

Peanuts, *Dilbert*, *Doonsbury*, *Blondie*,
Dennis the Menace, *The Far Side*, *Ziggy*, *Garfield*.

Software programs, Web sites:

PC Write, *WordPerfect*, *AllWrite!*,
First Publisher, *The Writing Tutor*,
Quicken, *Barron's Online*, *ESPN SportsZone*.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Do not underline/italicize or use “quotation marks” when referring to:

the Bible as a whole, the individual books of the Bible, or other sacred books (Genesis, Psalms, Matthew, Revelation, Job 5:6, the Koran 1:14);

names of buildings or famous people’s names (the Tower of London, Washington Monument, the White House, Abraham Lincoln, Mark Twain, Aristotle, Benjamin Franklin);

or public/legal documents, special events, or historical eras (the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, the Bill of Rights, the Magna Carta, World War I, Battle of the Bulge, Stone Age, Roaring Twenties, The Great Depression).

Also, do not underline/italicize or put “quotation marks” around the title of your own class essays.

Capitalize all the words of a title except for short prepositions and coordinating conjunctions (four or fewer letters), and the articles *the*, *an*, and *a*. Always capitalize the first and last words of the title, no matter what they are.

For your information:

According to the guidelines for documentation by the Modern Language Association of America (MLA), when noting titles of magazines and newspapers, even if part of the official name includes the word *the*, do not underline/italicize or capitalize it (the New Yorker, the Springfield Journal Register).

However, if using the style recommended for the social sciences by the American Psychological Association (APA), the word *the* is both underlined/italicized and capitalized in a title. For further information on documentation please refer to their respective web sites:

MLA - (<http://www.mla.org>) and APA - (<http://www.apa.org/journals/webref.html>).

Suggestion:

Whenever writing essays/research papers, **always** ask your instructor which style of documentation he/she prefers.