

Build Your Own Vocabulary Style Guide

Honors Sophomore English, Mr. Ferrell

The bibliographic styles described here are based on those found in *The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, Fifth Edition*, the standard style guide for many scholarly publications, especially those in Language and the Humanities. The MLA Handbook will, no doubt, become your dear, dear friend next year when you work on your Junior English research paper!

Book:

word (part of speech): *plain-language* definition

Context sentence.

Author's name. *Title of Book*. City: Publishing company, Date.

Newspaper Article:

word (part of speech): plain-language definition

Context sentence.

Author's name. "Title of Article." *Newspaper Name* Date:Page(s).

Magazine Article:

word (part of speech): plain-language definition

Context sentence.

Author's name. "Title of Article." *Magazine Name* Date:Page(s).

These three sources are the *only acceptable sources* for finding words! Do not collect words from anywhere else. Other things to remember:

» Choose your words carefully: pick words that are challenging, especially ones that are new to you, but not ridiculous.

» Follow the style format exactly when you record your words, right down to the punctuation marks. Be sure you skip a single line between each of the main sections for each word, and skip two lines between each complete word entry. See the examples on the back for more information.

» You may be called on in class to supply/explain one of your words—be sure you understand your words and what they mean!

» If you have questions while you work on these, ask me during the week or e-mail me! (ferrell@ferrellweb.com)

Some Examples

Book:

adamantine (adjective): If something is adamantine, it is unyielding.

He was not a saint, but I hope God rewarded his adamantine certainty of being one.

Eco, Umberto. The Name of the Rose. New York: Harvest, 1994.

Magazine Article:

entrepreneur (noun): An *entrepreneur* is a person who organizes, operates, and assumes the risk for a business venture.

Despite the rebellious nature of his project, Huang has no hard feelings against Microsoft or Gates, whom he considers “an excellent businessman and **entrepreneur**.”

Kushner, David. “Hacking the Box.” *Rolling Stone* 16 Oct. 2003: 64.

Newspaper Article:

unprecedented (adjective): Something that is unprecedented has no previous example; it's never happened before.

The unprecedented vote, the first in Latin America asking voters whether or not to recall an elected leader, was sluggish as huge numbers of Venezuelans lined up at voting booths across this oil-rich country of 25 million.

Forero, Juan. “Millions Wait Hours in Venezuela to Vote in Recall Elections.” The New York Times 15 Aug. 2003: D1.