

Creating an Intriguing Title

The purpose of a title is to stimulate your audience's interest while giving them a sense of what your writing is about. The problem is many people forget this purpose and just give their work a generic title (e.g. English Essay, Page 3 Questions).

REMEMBER: In MLA Style, your title should be centred and in the same font as the rest of your paper. It should not be underlined, italicized or made larger than the other text.

Here are a few things to keep in mind when you are trying to come up with a title:

- Every essay, writing assignment and project needs a title; it will be incomplete without one.
- Write your essay first. It will be easier to pick a title that works well with your essay if you know exactly what you are going to say.
- Make sure your title fits the tone of your essay. A funny title is not a good fit with a serious essay on the history of slavery, but it would be a great fit for a silly limerick.
- While creativity is important for hooking your reader, it is more important that your title clearly informs your readers about the topic of your writing. One way to ensure this is to have a short, creative title followed by a colon and that a more descriptive subtitle (as in some of the examples below).
- If you can't come up with a title on your own, ask someone else to read it and see if an idea comes to them.
- Still struggling to come up with an original title? Try one of the strategies listed below.

Some techniques for creating a title:

Find a phrase in your paper:

Simplify, Simplify: The Key To Better Writing

Use rhyme:

Lightning War Settles the Score: How Hitler Used Blitzkrieg to Avenge the German Nation

Incorporate a pun:

Leaf Me Alone: Preserving Canada's Maple Sugar Trees

Use humour:

Get Rich or Die Trying: An Analysis of "The Cremation of Sam McGee"

Make a provocative statement:

Injustice: The Trial of Louis Riel

Sum up your paper in 3 words:

Perspective, Proportion and Shadow: Realism in Renaissance Art

Use alliteration:

Media's Master Manipulators

Paraphrase a familiar phrase, quote, etc.:

To Thine Own Self Be True: Shakespearean Advice for the Modern World

Ask a question:

Was the Great Depression Preventable?