

This is an example of how to correctly format in **MLA (Modern Language Association) style.**

Bowman 1

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Mrs. Connors

English 1-4

10 March 2018

**Heading:**

- Student's Name
- Teacher's Name
- Class & Period
- Date (Day, Month, Year)

**Title:** Centered with each word capitalized (with the exception of small words like of, a, etc. unless they're the first or last word).

**Header:** Student's last name and insert page number (do not just write 1 or it will appear on every page). This should be aligned to the right and half an inch from the top.

The Changing Life of Ponyboy Curtis

**Entire Paper:**

Double spaced and 12 pt. font. Font should be legible and consistent. Margins are one inch from the edge.

Throughout life, people change because of the experiences they have or because of the people they meet. The novel, *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton, provides readers with an example of how and why people can change. The novel is about teenagers from two different social groups – the Greasers and the Socs – who are affected by their peers and their surroundings. The Greasers and the Socs are known for always getting into fights with each other because the Socs are seen as superior to the Greasers. Throughout the novel, Ponyboy Curtis changes dramatically as a result of the challenges that he faces. In many ways, *The Outsiders* is a story about Ponyboy growing up and finding his own identity amidst the conflict between two groups known as the greasers and the socials (or socs). At the start of the novel, Ponyboy identifies himself solely as a member of the greasers, but by the novel's end, he has found his own identity as an individual. Ponyboy Curtis changes the way that he sees others, his surroundings, and himself as a result of the challenges he faces during his formative years.

**Each Paragraph:**

Indented with a tab which is a half of an inch. There are no extra spaces between paragraphs

As a boy of fourteen, Ponyboy struggles to formulate his own individual identity because of the very specific mold that others expect him to fit into as a greaser. At the start of the novel, Ponyboy is assaulted by a group of socs on the way home from the movie theatre. As Ponyboy prepares himself for a fight, one of the socs shouts, ““Hey, grease. We’re gonna do you a favor, greaser. We’re cut all that long greasy hair off”” (Hinton 5). It is clear from this initial interaction that tensions between the socs and the greasers are very high. The socs have a strong,

negative opinion of greasers and apparently often demonstrate this through abusive language and physical attacks. Ponyboy is being told repeatedly that he is not a person. He is being told that he is nothing but greasy hair that can be pushed around. This negatively affects his ability to formulate an individual identity because he is only recognized as a member of a group and one that is not highly respected at that. In yet another conflict with the socs, Ponyboy hears even more negative messaging. Bob, a member of the socs, tells Ponyboy that greasers are “white trash with long hair” (Hinton 55). Again, Ponyboy is being identified not as an individual young man, but as a part of a larger group that is stereotyped as being unintelligent because of their class. Ponyboy retorts that “socs are nothing but white trash with Mustangs and madras shirts” (Hinton 55) leaving the reader to wonder what is so different about these two groups. He struggles to find himself amongst an overwhelming group identity. Ponyboy is quite reflective as a narrator and at a point toward the beginning of the novel, he remarks that some people are afraid of greasers, “but most looked at [them] as if they were dirt” (Hinton 15). The nonverbal communication in the way in which others look at greasers speaks volumes for how others view Ponyboy as a member of this greaser group. Ponyboy fits the description of a typical greaser: long, slicked back hair, dirty jeans, simple t-shirt, and sneakers. Fitting this image has essentially eliminated the possibility of Ponyboy being seen as a distinct individual outside the group. He feels as though he does not know who he is or how he fits into the world. Ponyboy is significantly limited by the way in which others view him as a member of a large group.

**Basic Citation Examples:** *Please send students to an English teacher if they have specific questions you do not feel comfortable addressing!*

**Non-embedded quote:**

As Ponyboy prepares himself for a fight, the narrator describes, “This is not actually from the text, it’s just an example” (Hinton 5).

**Embedded quote:**

Ponyboy retorts that “socs are nothing but white trash with Mustangs and madras shirts” (Hinton 55) leaving the reader to wonder what is so different about these two groups.

**Citing dialogue:**

As Ponyboy prepares himself for a fight, one of the socs shouts, “Hey, grease. We’re gonna do you a favor, greaser. We’re cut all that long greasy hair off” (Hinton 5).

**Citing text that ends in punctuation other than a period or a comma:**

Ponyboy wonders absentmindedly to himself, “Are the socs really just a bunch of madras wearing punks?” (Hinton 25).

Mr. Villanueva exclaimed vehemently, “Chairs must remain on the ground at all times!” (Thoreau 65).

Title is centered, capitalized, and in 12 pt font that is consistent with the rest of the paper.

Works Cited

Hinton, S. E. *The Outsiders*. Penguin Group, 2017.

Stephen, Andrew T. "The Role of Digital and Social Media Marketing in Consumer Behavior."

Current Opinion in Psychology, 12 Oct. 2015,

eureka.sbs.ox.ac.uk/5851/1/Stephen\_CurrentOpinionPsych\_101215.pdf.

Thoreau, Henry D. "About Thoreau's Writings." *The Writings of Henry D. Thoreau*, 2017,

thoreau.library.ucsb.edu/writings\_main.html.

"What Is Cyberbullying." *Cyberbullying*, Stopbullying.gov, 2018,

www.stopbullying.gov/cyberbullying/what-is-it/index.html.

Sources are in alphabetical order by the first word in the citation.

Works Cited is a separate, double spaced page with 1" margins.

Works Cited pages use a hanging indent (meaning the first line is left-aligned and any line after the first is indented once using TAB).