

Properly Formatting Titles

When citing the title of a work used in an academic paper, use either italicized text or quotation marks. Never use both because italics and quotation marks serve the same purpose. Also, underlining is not used anymore because most writing is not submitted in longhand. A good way to remember whether to use italics or quotations marks is to know whether a work is part of a larger work. For example: the title of a song goes in quotation marks while the title of an album is italicized; the title of a chapter goes in quotation marks while the title of a book is italicized; the title of an article goes in quotation marks while the title of a journal is italicized. Also, never use italics or quotation marks around titles of your own compositions.

Italicized Titles

<i>The Awakening</i> – book	<i>The White Album</i> – CD, cassette, album
<i>The Importance of Being</i> – play	<i>The Nutcracker</i> – dance performance
<i>The Waste Land</i> – poem in a book	<i>Rigoletto</i> – opera
<i>Texas Driver Manual</i> – pamphlet	<i>Berlioz’s Symphonie Fantastique</i> – musical composition
<i>Wall Street Journal</i> – newspaper	<i>DaVinci’s Mona Lisa</i> – painting
<i>Time</i> – magazine	<i>French’s The Minute Man</i> – sculpture
<i>PMLA</i> – journal	<i>USS Arizona</i> – ship
<i>Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i> – website	<i>Spirit of St. Louis</i> – aircraft
<i>Academic Search Complete</i> – online database	<i>Challenger</i> – spacecraft
<i>It’s a Wonderful Life</i> – film	
<i>Star Trek</i> – television broadcast	

Titles in Quotation Marks

“Literary History and Sociology” – journal article	“The American Economy before the Civil War” – chapter in a book
“Sources of Energy in the Next Decade” – magazine article	“Philosophy of Economics” – page in a web site
“Crustaceans” – encyclopedia article	“The Well” – episode of the television broadcast for <i>Walking Dead</i>
“The Fiction of Langston Hughes” – essay in a book	“The Sun King” – song
“The Lottery” – story	“Preparing for a Successful Interview” - lecture
“The Raven” – poem	

Titles and Quotations within Titles

- **Italicize a title normally indicated by italics when it appears within a title enclosed in quotation marks.**
 “*Romeo and Juliet* and Renaissance Politics” – an article about a play
 “Language and Childbirth in *The Awakening*” – an article about a novel
- **Enclose in single quotation marks a title normally indicated by quotation marks when it appears within another title requiring quotation marks.**
 “Lines after Reading ‘Sailing to Byzantium’” – a poem about a poem
 “The Uncanny Theology of ‘A Good Man Is Hard to Find’” – an article about a story
- **Also place single quotation marks around a quotation that appears within a title requiring quotation marks.**
 “Emerson’s Strategies Against ‘Foolish Consistency’” – an article with a quotation in the title