



## Writing a Title

A **title** should be a short, catchy phrase that communicates an interesting idea and provides a key to the text.

### Types of Titles

A **Direct Title** clearly states the topic of the essay.

Ex: *The Right to Smoke in Public Places*

An **Indirect Title** hints at the topic of the essay.

Ex: *No Smoking, Please*

### Some Helpful Hints

- Capitalize main words.
- Do not capitalize prepositions (to, from, et cetera), conjunctions (and, but, et cetera), or articles (a, an, the) unless they begin the title or are over five letters in length.\*
- \*(Note: Consult APA, MLA, or Turabian for specific instructions about capitalization of prepositions, conjunctions, or articles that are over five letters long.)
- Do not use a period after the title.
- Do not use quotation marks unless part of the title includes a quotation.
- Do not underline the title.
- The title should be something the author has created; do not title a paper the same name as the book that the paper is written about. (A paper on *A Rose for Emily* should not be titled "A Rose for Emily.")
- Avoid trite titles. A trite title is anything that is not original. In other words, it is a phrase or title that has been used repeatedly.

### Where to Put a Title

#### MLA

The title is placed on the first page on the line before the body text begins and after the four-line heading. For more help, refer to the UWC's MLA Packet.

#### APA

The title is placed on the first line of the title page. For more help, refer to the UWC's APA Packet.

#### Turabian

Usually, the title is placed on the title page under the name of the university. For more help, refer to the UWC's Turabian Packet.