

Writing Guide: Titles of Works

Capitalization

1. **Capitalize** the first letter of the first word, the last word, and every major word in the title of a work.
2. Major words include everything except articles (*a, an, the*), prepositions (Ex.: *in, on, with*), and conjunctions (Ex.: *and, but, or*).

Examples

Go Tell It on the Mountain
"Stairway to Heaven"
Dancing with the Stars
"The Jilting of Granny Weatherall"
The Sound and the Fury

Underlining, Italics, or Quotation Marks

1. **Italicize or underline** the titles of books, book-length poems, periodicals, films, TV programs, Web sites, and CDs.

Note: Italicizing and underlining mean the same thing. Use one or the other—not both.

Examples

A Writer's Reference (book)
Beowulf (book-length poem)
The Huron River Review (periodical)
The Wizard of Oz (film)
Leave It to Beaver (TV program)
Wikipedia (Web site)
Blood on the Tracks (CD)

2. Use **quotation marks** for the titles of short stories, essays, poems, and songs.

Examples

"A Rose for Emily" (short story)
"A White Woman of Color" (essay)
"The Road Not Taken" (poem)
"Chain of Fools" (song)