

MLA Essay Format

The diagram shows a page of an MLA-style essay with various annotations. At the top left, a vertical double-headed arrow indicates a 1-inch margin. The header information is as follows:

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Professor Duncan
English 102
19 April 2013

At the top right, a vertical double-headed arrow indicates a 1/2-inch margin. The header information is as follows:

Larson 1

Annotations on the right side of the page include:

- Writer's last name and page number in upper right corner of each page.
- Writer's name, instructor's name, course title, date flush left on first page; title centered.
- Double-spacing throughout.
- Quotations from source cited with page numbers in parentheses.

The title of the essay is centered:

The Transformation of Mrs. Peters:
An Analysis of "A Jury of Her Peers"

The first paragraph of the essay is as follows:

← 1/2" → In Susan Glaspell's 1917 short story "A Jury of Her Peers," two women accompany their husbands and a county attorney to an isolated house where a farmer named John Wright has been choked to death in his bed with a rope. The chief suspect is Wright's wife, Minnie, who is in jail awaiting trial. The sheriff's wife, Mrs. Peters, has come along to gather some personal items ← 1" → for Minnie, and Mrs. Hale has joined her. ← 1" → Early in the story, Mrs. Hale sympathizes with Minnie and objects to the way the male investigators are "snoopin' round and criticizin'" her kitchen (249). In contrast, Mrs. Peters shows respect for the law, saying that the men are doing "no more than their duty" (249). By the end of the story, however, Mrs. Peters has joined Mrs. Hale in a conspiracy of silence, lied to the men, and committed a crime—hiding key evidence. What causes this dramatic change?

The second paragraph of the essay is as follows:

One critic, Leonard Mustazza, argues that Mrs. Hale recruits Mrs. Peters "as a fellow 'juror' in the case, moving the sheriff's wife away from her sympathy for her husband's position and towards identification with the accused wom[a]n" (494). While this is true, Mrs. Peters also reaches insights on her own. Her observations in the kitchen lead her to understand Minnie's grim and lonely plight as the wife of an abusive farmer, and her

At the bottom of the page, a vertical double-headed arrow indicates a 1-inch margin.

Marginal annotations indicate **MLA-style formatting**.

Source: Hacker/Sommers (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2014).

This sample follows the style guidelines in the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7th ed. (2009).