

# Punctuating Titles Handout

We will be writing about literature in this class. We will refer to the title of the work about which we are writing, and sometimes we will refer to articles and other books to help us defend an argument. There are rules for how to punctuate titles of works: *italics*, underlining, and “quotation marks.”

## I. Underlining/Italics:

- **Long works and collections** of short works are underlined or *italicized*
  - Underlining and *italicizing* are the same. Choose one and stick with it through the entire paper. A lot of professors prefer underlining because it stands out better.
  - Microsoft Word commands: underline = Ctrl + U. Italics = Ctrl + I.

## II. “Quotation Marks”

- Short works and parts of long works are usually in “quotation marks.”

### Long Works and Collection of Short Works

- **Title of a Novel**  
Ex: Frankenstein
- **Title of Book**  
Ex: Psychology and Consumer Culture
- **Title of Anthology or Collection of Works**  
Ex: An Introduction to Literature  
Ex: The Best American Essays 2003
- **Title of Magazine or Scholarly Journal**  
Ex: U.S. News and World Report
- **Title of Newspaper**  
Ex: Chicago Tribune  
Ex: The New York Times
- **Title of Plays**  
Ex: Death of a Salesman  
Ex: Oedipus the King
- **Title of an Epic Poem or Long Poem**  
Ex: The Odyssey
- **Title of Film**  
Ex: Edward Scissorhands
- **Title of a Television Series**  
Ex: The Simpsons  
Ex: The Twilight Zone
- **Title of Album (CD, record, or cassette)**  
Ex: Bob Dylan’s Greatest Hits, Vol. 2

### “Short Works” and “Sections of Longer Works”

- **Title of a Short Story**  
Ex: “The Lesson”
- **Title of a Chapter**  
Ex: “Homer and Aristotle”
- **Title of an Essay**  
Ex: “Citizenship in Emergency”
- **Title of an Article in a Magazine or Journal**  
Ex: “The North Korea Problem”
- **Title of an Article in a Newspaper**  
Ex: “A Year-Long Chance to Relive College Days”
- **Title of a Short Poem**  
Ex: “The Sick Rose”
- **Title of a Chapter on a DVD**  
Ex: “A Story about Snow”
- **Title of Individual Episode in a T.V. Series**  
Ex: “Bart’s Girlfriend”  
Ex: “Time Enough at Last”
- **Title of a Song**  
Ex: “A Hard Rain’s A-Gonna Fall”