

Formatting an MLA Paper

First Page
In MLA Style, you do not need to have a cover page.

Mickey Jones
Professor Carlson
English 333
7 June 2016

Judith Ortiz Coffey dramatizes the pain of racism in her story "The Story of My Body." She explains that moving to the United States from Puerto Rico dramatically changed the way she was seen. "I was born a white girl in Puerto Rico," says Coffey, "but became a brown girl when I came to live in the United States" (132). As Coffey encounters the racism of America, her appearance is literally altered—her skin going from white to brown. Coffey also goes from tall to short (132), and from pretty to ugly (132). It is racism that makes Coffey darker, but a disease that literally scars her face. At the age of ten, Coffey writes that she, "scratched off my face, leaving permanent scars" (132). It's almost as though racism works inside her body to make her as ugly to herself as she fears she is to racist Americans. According to the *Enciclopedia de Puerto Rico*, the literature by Puerto Ricans in the diaspora tends to focus on, "cultural

Heading
The heading contains your name, the title of the course, and the date.

Paper Title
The title of your paper is centered. Do not skip a space before or after the title. Do not underline the title.

Indentation Every paragraph should be indented half an inch.

Block Quotes If a quote is more than four lines long, indent the entire quote one inch, and do not use quotation marks.

Margins There should be an inch margin all around the page. The left margin should be even, and the right margin should be uneven.

Type You should use Times New Roman, 12 point font.

Body Page(s)
These are the pages between the first page and the Works Cited.

Jones 2

clashes encountered by different generations" ("Puerto Rican Diaspora in the United States" par. 24). Coffey experiences a clash between the comfort she knew in Puerto Rico and the pain of living in the United States. Coffey experiences a similar discomfort as an adult, but geographically reversed. In an interview with Carmen Dolores Hernandez, Coffey explains how she feels isolated and alienated from the writing community in Puerto Rico: "There is some hostility, yes. When I have done readings in Puerto Rico, in the Rio Piedras or Mayagüez campus of the university, not one writer has showed up. I was hoping to meet them, especially the women writers... I do feel some tension, a division. I hope at some point this is eliminated. (98) Coffey wants to bring together the Puerto Rican and American communities, but finds that, even as an adult, she is still painfully trapped between two cultures.

Running Head
The running head contains your last name and the page number. It is on the right side of the page, and half an inch from the top of the page. The running head should appear on every page of your paper.

Hanging Indent
The first line of each entry should be even with the left margin, and each following line should be indented half an inch.

Works Cited Page(s)
Always start the first Works Cited Page on a new sheet of paper.

Jones 3

Works Cited

Bel, Edna Acosta. "Puerto Rican Diaspora in the United States." *Enciclopedia de Puerto Rico*. Encyclopediapr.org. Web. 2 Feb 2011.

Coffey, Judith Ortiz. Interview. *Puerto Rican Voices in English: Interviews with Writers*. By Carmen Dolores Hernandez. Westport, CT: Praeger, 1997. Print.

—. "The Story of My Body." *Boricuas*. Ed. Roberto Santiago. New York: Ballantine, 1995. 117-126. Print.

