

TITLE PUNCTUATION – THE RULES

Italics/ underline

Book

Movies

Plays

Newspapers

Magazines

Ships, trains, aircraft, spacecraft

CD

Operas

Long poems

TV programs

Radio programs

Comic strips

Online media/ Websites

“quotes”

chapter of a book

short story

essay

short movie

scenes within plays

article title

article title

individual songs

short poem

episode of show

No italics (underlining) or quotes at all

- Your essay title as it appears on your essay
- Name of Bible or other sacred book
- Any book of the Bible - e.g., Genesis
- Legal document

In controversy – use either italics (underlining) or quotes, but be consistent

- Works of art (*MLA Handbook* says to underline or use italics; *Evergreen* says to use quotes.)

OVER →

Title Caps-

✍ First and last words of title—always capitalize (but see weird rule about “the” in titles of magazines and newspapers – *Evergreen* 441, footnote †)

✍ First word after a colon—always capitalize

✍ Middle words—capitalize all words except articles (a, an, & the), short conjunctions, and short prepositions.

✍ See *Evergreen* 440-1, *SHHS Handbook* 33

HW Practice - Add correct capitalization and show correct title punctuation (quotes, underlining, or neither):

1. stairway to heaven (song)
2. lacy in the sky with diamonds (short poem)
3. the man who sold the world (CD)
4. all you need is love (full length movie)
5. for the benefit of Mr. Kite (chapter title)
6. who has more commitment? (essay title at the top of your essay)
7. paradise lost (epic poem)
8. my story: brought low by grammar (novel)
9. words to live by (ship's name)
10. summer reading: a question of balance (magazine article)
11. sports illustrated (magazine)
12. grammar for idiots (non-fiction book)
13. american idol (TV series)