

The attached excerpts from a sample MLA paper have been created according to the requirements of *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (7th ed.). For comprehensive guidelines on writing a paper in the MLA style, refer to the MLA style manual. If you would like to use the MLA manual while in the writing center, please ask one of the staff members for it.

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Dr. Weiss

English 531

Double-space entire paper.

11 December 2006

Indent 1/2"

Women's Voices in Postmodernist Poetry

Post World War II globalization, ethnicization, feminization, and increased educational access brought about new poetic tendencies which had not been part of the literary mainstream. One such tendency was that women became confident that their experiences were valid subjects for poetry. Women poets, conscious of their femininity, attempted to shape their own identities as poets by employing themes that were more personal and intimate than those of literary tradition and by experimenting with poetic forms.

1" Margin

The old literary tradition was characterized by male dominance. Poetry was the expression and the reflection of the male norms and values. Women poets were clearly the exception rather than the rule. According to Juhasz, those women poets who wanted to establish themselves in the literary mainstream had to exhibit certain aspects of themselves that were normally considered masculine, such as ego strength, independence, and need for achievement. In other words, women poets had to disguise their true feminine identity for their poetic talent to be recognized (2).

Give the relevant page number if you paraphrase a specific passage from the source.

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Nevertheless, the consciousness of being a woman affected women's poetic imagination and made women poets bring their experiences into poetry and thus challenge the literary tradition. Maxine Kumin once wrote, "We could not possibly write like men. Whatever we were—daughters, wives, mothers, lovers—was intensely female. And the impulse for poems came directly out of our female perceptions" (104).

Use quotation marks and give the relevant page number if you quote a specific passage from the source.

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List the
sources in
alphabetical
order by the
author's last
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