

Sample selection of sources from research on zombies

Below are portions from four of the sources used to write sample paragraphs in MLA style. Here are some things to consider when selecting your sources and citations for your paper.

The paper is primarily your thoughts, ideas, arguments, or observations on the subject you have chosen. **Quotations or paraphrases you include in the paper should be used to support or illustrate your main points.** A paper should not be a collection of quotes and information with a few transitions sentences from you.

You can **quote directly** (word for word) from a source if the author's wording is strong or memorable or would not be as powerful if you tried to put it in your own words. You can **paraphrase**, or put into your own words, information or ideas that do not need the author's tone, word choice, or style of writing. In either case it is essential to give credit to your source to avoid plagiarism (stealing ideas or not giving credit for a source). Two equally important reasons are to provide your reader information about the source if he or she is interested in learning or reading more, or the reader wants to evaluate the validity of the source itself.

As you choose sources, keep track of how you can find that source again if you need to. Look for the author's name, the title of the article or web page or site, the publisher, date published, and date you accessed a site, and relevant page numbers.

OP-ED COLUMNIST
The Zombie Jamboree

By GAIL COLLINS

Published: November 19, 2010

What's the attraction of zombies? They don't really do anything but stagger around and eat raw flesh. The plot possibilities seem limited. Zombies come. Humans shoot them. More zombies come. Humans hit them over the head with shovels. Nobody ever runs into a particularly sensitive zombie who wants to make peace with the nonflesh-devouring public. ("On behalf of the United Nations Security Council today, I would like to welcome the zombie delegation to the ... *aaauuurrghchompchompchomp.*")

Maybe that's the whole point. Our horror movies are mirroring the world around us. The increasingly passé vampire story is about a society full of normal people threatened by a few bloodsuckers, some of whom are maybe just like you and me, except way older. It was fine for the age of Obama. But we've entered the era of zombie politics: a small cadre of uninfected humans have to band together and do whatever it takes to protect themselves against the irrational undead.

The new incoming Tea Party Republicans are lurking in the halls of the Capitol, hiding behind the statuary and hoping to leap out and behead a Democratic zombie spendthrift.

(from The Zombie Jamboree – NYTimes.com)

The Zombie Apocalypse Is Here And it's nothing we expected

By Jack Dunnington
Published February 18, 2011

Countless zombie movies have been released over the past few decades. Zombie books, zombie-themed television, zombie board games. Brain-shaped jell-O molds, zombie T-shirts, "Zombie Nation" car mats. Specific companies and causes hold zombie-themed parties and dances, and every year Seattle hosts a

“zombie walk” in which thousands dress up in zombie gear and shamble down city streets in droves. Ironically, Romero has stated that he wrote the script for his sequels, *Dawn of the Dead* and *Day of the Dead* as a critique of brainless American consumer culture: upon reanimation, the mindless zombie mob congregates around a mall.

Public success of the zombie genre is due to the closeted fear we feel of the end of the world, the romantic vision of a sole survivor in a zombie apocalypse, and the fact that it rocks to see Woody Harrelson (Zombieland) beat the crap out of a plus-size zombie with a banjo (Harrelson has the banjo, not the zombie). Zombies, for all the savage panic and supernatural fear they instill, have become a parody of the terror we feel when faced with the possibility of global epidemic, and seeing our own friends and loved ones turned against us in uncontrollable rage.

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ZOMBIES

Considering that zombies of the reanimated variety are nothing more than moving corpses, they come to embody the human fear of our own dead tissue. We, as humans, go to great lengths to obscure the remains of our dead, especially our loved ones. If someone we know dies, our mental image of that person stops at the grave. When we build a picture in our mind's eye of that person, it is not the rotting corpse or skeletal remains that we see--even though that is the person's current status--but the memory of that person's conscious life. It is no mistake that we bury our corpses "six feet under" so as to eradicate the ugliness of decomposition.

Therefore, to confront a zombie is to be reminded of our own mortality. It, as is proven in *Night of the Living Dead* and its ilk, is especially terrifying to encounter, let alone be attacked by, the physical image of one's deceased beloved. Being that our mortality is something that we try to decorate with tidy rituals and outright denial, zombies serve as a painfully striking reminder that we will all eventually return to the same stinking earthly essence from which we are born.

Zombies also represent widespread annihilation in the form of plague-like sickness. The implications here are basically the same as they are with nuclear apocalypse, but on a more personal and intimate level. Romeroesque zombies multiply by infecting their victims through the mixing of bodily fluids (saliva, etc.). When a person is attacked by a zombie, that person, in a process similar to that enacted by vampires, becomes a member of the "undead." As is the case with the cold war similarities, the fact that the majority of the *Night*..-style zombie movies arrived during the 80s during the height of the AIDS epidemic is difficult to overlook.

(from Web site ZOMBIES www.umich.edu)

Time is on the side of the undead. With each day their ranks will swell, making containment and extermination more and more difficult. Unlike its human counterparts, an army of zombies is completely independent of support. It will not require food, ammunition, or medical attention. It will not suffer from low morale, battle fatigue, or poor leadership. It will not succumb to panic, desertion, or out-and-out mutiny. Like the virus that gave it life, this undead force will continue to grow, spreading across the body of this planet until there is nothing left to devour. Where will you go? What will you do?

From *The Zombie Survival Guide* by Max Brooks (page 155)