

## MLA Sample Research Paper

### MLA Requires

- \* Double-spacing
- \* 12 point font
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Student's Name  
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Name 1

### Aliens

Are we alone in the universe? This question has long been controversial, but in recent years, more and more people have come forward to challenge this idea. Many people report that they have been contacted or abducted by alien beings--clearly not human-- from other planets or other dimensions. Abductees have become so numerous that there are even books, such as *The Alien Abduction Survival Guide* by Michelle LaVigne, to help abductees cope. Abductees and others insist that some type of nonhuman intelligence is interacting with and manipulating humans. Some "contactees" believe that these aliens are benign; however, many more people feel that humans are being invaded, physically and emotionally, by essentially unfeeling nonhuman beings. The controversy is fueled by the fact that much information about the aliens has been gleaned through hypnosis, used to override the amnesia abductees report. While there is much controversy and disagreement about the purpose of the aliens, there is more agreement about the types of aliens that are reported. As noted in *Britannica Online*, "[I]ntelligence need not necessarily be restricted to the same evolutionary path that occurred on Earth" ("Life"). Thus, there are scattered reports of reptilian aliens, tall red-headed aliens, and an assortment of essentially monster-type aliens. However, there are primarily three types of aliens that have been consistently reported in the United States.

The first type of alien is the most commonly reported, the so-called "grays" or "small beings." These aliens are small, slight, but with large heads and huge insect-like eyes. This is the favorite depiction of science fiction, and this is the face that graces the front of the best-selling book *Communion* by Whitley Strieber. This, then, is the image most recognizable to people outside of the unidentified flying object (UFO) community. Pulitzer Prize winning author, John E. Mack, M.D., has investigated over 100 cases of alien abduction and reports:

The small grays have large, pear-shaped heads that protrude in the back, long arms with three or four long fingers, a thin torso, and spindly legs . . . External genitalia, with rare exceptions, are not observed. The beings are hairless with no ears, have rudimentary nostril holes and a thin slit for a mouth . . . By far the most prominent features are huge, black eyes which curve upward and are more rounded toward the center of the head and pointed at the outer edge. (37)

The eyes have been the most consistently described feature of the aliens. While the report of skin color has varied from light gray to blue, almost everyone agrees on the eyes. In a famous case from 1962, Betty and Barney Hill remember a "missing time" episode, and under hypnosis, they both describe short alien beings with large eyes. Barney Hill, during his hypnosis session, repeatedly refers to the eyes: "Oh--oh, the eyes are there. Always the eyes are there. And they're telling me I don't have to be afraid" (qtd. in Fuller 98).

Twenty-five years later, Kathy Lewis, an "abductee" describes "two strange gray-faced creatures" coming to her in the night. She reports that they had large heads and skin that was "dingy white, almost gray." She further states that their eyes were "pitch black in color" (qtd. in Hopkins 14). Virtually all accounts agree that the eyes of the grays are solid black and very large. David M. Jacobs reports that all of the aliens of this type look basically the same. People don't report any emotional or physical characteristics that help them to distinguish one from another (223). This type of alien is most often described as the ones that carry out the so-called abductions and do general physical examinations on the abductees. Stefan Duncan, editor and writer for *American UFO News* online, discusses this issue: "From the description of the observed behavior and appearance of the species commonly called the 'grays' it is probable that this species is a subservient race in the service of some master .... It is also likely that this race was specifically bred to perform specific

Italicize titles of whole works, such as books, movies, and magazines.

No author? Cite the first identifying word of the title.

Indent quotations one inch (usually by pushing the tab key two times) if they are **longer than four lines**. Indented quotations are generally preceded by a colon.

Quotations of just a few words can be integrated into your sentence.

You must cite even if you are summarizing, as this example shows.

If quotation marks appear within the text you are quoting, change them to single quotation marks.

tasks with the culture." This assessment seems to be borne out by descriptions of other alien beings that appear to direct the actions of the grays.

If you use two or more sources by the same author, cite the first identifying word of the title along with the author & page number.

The second type of alien is often referred to as the "taller beings." This suggests only that they are taller than the grays but still tend to be shorter than average for humans, according to most reports; however, some people report that the limbs are very elongated and that the alien is about six feet tall. Jim Weiner states, "They're like bugs!" (qtd. in Fowler, *Allagash* 53), and this seems to be the common assessment. The physical descriptions of these beings match those of the grays, except for the difference in height. In another famous abduction case, Betty Andreasson reports being abducted by four aliens, with one alien being taller: "They were identical except for the leader who appeared taller. The creatures had gray skins, large, outsized pear-shaped heads. Their faces were mongoloid in appearance" (qtd. in Fowler, *Andreasson* 25). Andreasson's report is echoed by many others who report being taken by the small beings and controlled by a taller being.

Whitley Strieber describes the different types of aliens that he has encountered, saying, "The most provocative of these was about five feet tall, very slender and delicate, with extremely prominent and mesmerizing black slanted eyes. This being had an almost vestigial mouth and nose" (29). Note his use of the term "mesmerizing" to suggest that there is an almost hypnotic quality to the eyes. The difference between the grays and this taller being also suggests that there is some type of hierarchical structure among the aliens: "The Taller Being appears to be in control of the abduction. He usually makes his appearance after the abductee has been examined. He directs the operations of the Small Beings" (Jacobs 229).

Because both quotations are from the same author, it is not necessary to give his name after the second quotation.

This taller being is often described as a doctor by abductees because he carries out special examination procedures. As Mack explains, "The leader or doctor is slightly taller, perhaps four and a half or five feet at most, and his features similar to the smaller grays, except that he may seem older or more wrinkled. He is clearly in charge of the procedures that occur on the ship" (37). Abductees often report that the taller alien conducts a type of mind-scan: "Communication between aliens and humans is telepathic, mind to mind or thought to thought, with no specific common learned language being necessary" (38). Rarely do people report this same type of direct communication with the smaller beings although they are sometimes aware telepathically of the communication occurring between the grays and the taller beings.

Briefly introduce the authors with relevant details.

It's interesting to note that historically most abductees have reported feeling much fear. However, Donna Higbee, a certified hypnotherapist working with abductees in Santa Barbara, reports that more recent abductees report that the message being communicated by the aliens is that they are here to help humans to evolve spiritually and that the abductees should cooperate and stop fighting: "By accepting this information, the abductees stopped fighting abduction and instead became passive and controlled." She further notes that other researchers and hypnotherapists across the country have been finding the same pattern. The implications for this change are not clear.

No page numbers? Just omit them.

Many abductees report that they can discern no physical difference to suggest aliens are male or female, but that they sometimes feel intuitively that an alien is female. Kathy Mitchell reports, after seeing one of the tall aliens, "While no feature suggests it and no particular characteristic points to it, for some unaccountable reason or by something like intuition, I have the feeling that this alien being is female in gender" (qtd. in Jordan and Mitchell 3). Abductees often report that the female beings seem to be less threatening and more comforting than the male beings. Perhaps, this is a stereotypical perception since there appears to be no clear indication of sex in most cases.

Use "and" between the names of two or three authors of a single source.

The third type of alien reported appears to be human or humanlike. These are frequently reported as being "hybrid," the result of breeding experiments between humans and aliens. These aliens have the more human characteristics of hair, nose, and mouth with teeth. They are often reported as being the hybrid children of the abductee. Female abductees, especially, report being taken to nurseries to see these children. Barbara Archer, for example, claims, "[The babies] scared me . . . because they looked odd. They look kind of old. They don't have much hair. [Their skin is] like grayish, or it's like lighter than ours.

Use brackets to change or clarify quotations: "[The babies]" replaces the original "They."

Use "qtd. in" to indicate a source who was quoted within your source.

Use ellipses (. . .) to indicate you have left something out of a quotation.

Notice that periods go **before** the citation of long, indented quotations.

Notice that periods go **after** the citation of short quotations.

It's not normal looking, but it's not the same as theirs either" (qtd. in Jacobs 166). There are numerous reports in the literature of alien abduction to support Archer's story. For example, Leah Haley states, "They've shown me a child that belonged to me, and a nursery full of little hybrid babies suspended inside transparent containers" (qtd. in Rae). Older children are often reported as appearing very frail and in need of human contact. Kathy Mitchell reports seeing a child who appeared to be about four years old. She is told that the child is hers:

She didn't look like them, but she didn't look like us either. She was real pretty. She looked like an elf, or an . . . angel. She had really big blue eyes and a little teeny-weeny nose, just so perfect. And her mouth was . . . tiny, and she was pale, except her lips were pink and her eyes were blue. And her hair was white and wispy . . . , real thin and fine. Her head was a little larger than normal, 'specially in the forehead and back here. The forehead was a little bit bigger, but she was just a doll. (qtd in Hopkins 155)

Sometimes the human-like figures are adult. Men, for example, often report encounters with hybrid females. Ed, a technician from Massachusetts reports being taken aboard a small pod with a "small, slight female figure with long, straight, thin silvery blond hair." She had a "small mouth and nose intense large dark eyes, and a sort of triangular shaped head with a largish forehead" (qtd. in Mack 52). Note that this description is very similar to that of the child that Kathy Mitchell reports seeing and could almost be the adult version.

Occasionally, these beings are reported as hairless but with other humanoid features. Lucille Forman reports seeing a young woman who appears to be hybrid: "She is perhaps an adolescent, I don't see ears. There is the slight protrusion of a nose. Her eyes are like the other ones with the black eyes, except her eyes are huge No eyebrows. A large cranium and more rounded features" (qtd. in Hopkins 191). There are clearly variations in the reports of this third type of alien with some being reported as closer to humans than others. It's interesting to note that eyes are generally reported as black or blue. These aliens are closer in looks to humans than the other two types of aliens, but still obviously different.

Numerous people report and really believe that they have had contact with aliens. Almost always, the first aliens that people report are the small beings or grays. These are the ones that people say abduct them. The next beings they encounter are the taller beings, similar to the first but taller. These beings often communicate telepathically with the abductee and seem to be in control. Last, there are the humanlike or hybrids, perhaps offspring of human and alien parents. Since most of the reports have been gathered through the use of hypnotherapy, many scientists question the credibility of the stories, but the stories persist from across the United States, and indeed from around the world, with amazing consistency. Without direct proof, a UFO landing on the White House lawn, for example, alien beings remain in the realm of science fiction for most people. Others, some legitimate scientists, believe that the existence of alien or extraterrestrial beings is clear. Are alien beings real? If they are, then *The X-Files* is right, "We are not alone."

### Works Cited Rules

- \* Continue header
- \* Double-space
- \* Alphabetize
- \* Use hanging indent
- \* No URL's (unless your instructor requests them)

“---.” means  
“same author  
as above.”

Use “and”  
between the  
names of two or  
three co-authors.  
Reverse only the  
name of the first  
author.

Alphabetize by  
title if there is  
no author.

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Name 4