

Tricky Tricks

Major Works & Minor Works

Major Works/Minor Works Overview

- **Major works** are the **names of big works**, like books, magazines, movies, CD’s, etc.
- **Minor works** are the **sub-works within major works**.
- **Words of three letters or fewer** not found at the beginning or end of the title and not verbs **are not capitalized** if they are not important to the title. Example: “Home **on the** Range” but “Climb, Climb **Up** Sunshine Mountain”
- Usually **when a preposition is used as an adverb** (up, down, etc.) in a title, **it is capitalized** even if it is a short word (“Climb, Climb **Up** Sunshine Mountain”).

Minor works are found within major works:

- (1) The article title is the minor work; the magazine title is the major work.
- (2) The chapter title is the minor work; the book title is the major work.
- (3) The song title is the minor work; the cd title is the major work, etc.

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(continued)

If you always think of the “minor” being within the “major,” you will grasp these concepts better.

• **Minor works** are names of any of the following and are written **surrounded by quotation marks**:

–**Chapters of books**: “Overcoming Anger” –**Magazine articles**: “Speech and Debate in Indiana”

–**Encyclopedia entries**: “Mammals” –**Song titles**: “My Country Tis of Thee”

 Ask yourself if it is within a bigger work. If so, it is probably a minor work.

• **Major works** are names of any of the following and are **italicized** when keyed and **underlined** when written by hand:

–**Books**: *The Well-Trained Heart*


–**Magazines**: *Taste of Home*


–**Encyclopedias**: *World Book*

–**Movie titles**: *Treasures in the Snow*

–**Music collection titles***: *America, the Beautiful*

• **Music collection titles** may be the names of CD’s, cassettes, DVD’s, song books, instrumental music books, hymnals, etc.

 Ask yourself if your source has smaller works within it. If it does, your source is probably a major work.

 Ask yourself if your source is found inside another (bigger) work. If it is, your source is probably a minor work.