Underlining denotes italics, so it is best to use italics. As a general rule, do not underline unless you are writing by hand.
When to use Italics

**Italics are appropriate with**

- titles of the following:
  - Books
  - Magazines
  - Newspapers
  - Pamphlets/booklets
  - Plays
  - Long Poems
  - Movies
  - TV Shows
  - Radio Shows
  - Musical Compositions
  - Choreographic Works
  - Works of Visual Art
  - Comic Strips
  - Software Programs

**Italicize the following vehicles:**

- Ships
- Aircrafts
- Spacecrafts
- Trains

**Use *italics* for foreign words in English sentences:**

“Do all coins say *e pluribus unum*?” she asked.

**Use *italics* for scientific names of animals and plants:**

An *Orchis mascula* doesn’t sound nearly as pretty as an “orchid.”

**Use *italics* for words, letters, and numbers used as themselves:**

You have used the word *very* too many times in this paper.

Your capital *W* and your 3 look the same to me.

**General notes about *italics***:

- Do not italicize the Bible or books of the Bible (or other sacred texts) or legal documents (i.e., the Constitution).
- Do not use italics for foreign-based words now considered part of English, such as “alumni.”
- USS and HMS are not placed in italics.
- Words, letters, and numbers used as themselves may also be placed in quotation marks.
- *Italics* may be used for emphasis, but this should be done only *rarely*. Overuse of this option dilutes the effectiveness and distracts the reader.