



## (2) First Page Following MLA Style

Mitun 1

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English

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Supernova 1987:  
Key to Cosmic Mysteries

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Things were not going well for University of Toronto astronomer Ian Shelton on February 24, 1987. A bright blotch marred his nightly sky photo. Then he realized that the same bright blotch had not been there the night before. Shelton's camera had caught the birth of a supernova—a rare event that could hold a key to cosmic mysteries (Goldsmith 27).

Astronomers think that supernovas are birthplaces of pulsars and black holes. Supernova 1987 seems to prove part of this theory, for some astronomers detect faint radio waves—indicators of a pulsar—coming from the centre of the dust cloud left after the explosion (Marschall and Brecher 32).