STYLE
Papers organized according to Modern Language Association or MLA guidelines include:

- Heading: Each on its own line, list your name, your instructor’s name, the course, and the date [day month year] in the upper left-hand corner of the first page. There is no cover page.
- In the upper right-hand header add your last name, a space, and then insert “page number” to identify each page.
- Use one-inch margins on all sides, and indent the first line of a paragraph one half-inch.
- Double-space text and use Times New Roman 12-point font.
- Provide in-text citations for all quoted, paraphrased, and summarized information in your paper.
- Include a Works Cited page at the end of your paper that gives full source information for every item cited and only items cited in your paper.

Be sure to check with your instructor to determine the specific expectations for your paper.

IN-TEXT CITATIONS
NOTE: This handout uses MLA version 8, which came out in April 2016 and has one major change from version 7 which is the use of “containers” instead of labels in the works cited list. (i.e., “web” and “print”) [i.e. abbreviation for id est (Latin) “that is”].

- MLA style requires the period after the citation (Author page#).
- List the last name of the author, followed by the page number. “If a work, such as a website, does not include page numbers, then omit this portion of the in-text citation” (Excelsior OWL).
- Single author (Deeks 81), Two authors (Deeks and Williams 121).
- Three or more authors: List principal author plus “et al.” [et al. abbreviation for et alii (Latin) short for “and others”]. Each author must be listed in the Works Cited (Deeks et al.).
- Unknown Author: Use an abbreviated version of the work’s title in quotes if the author is unknown (“Modern Library Uses” 91).
- Use Organization or Corporate author if not an individual (Buzzfeed Staff), (Nike).
WORKS CITED PAGE

- Each cited source in your MLA paper should appear on your “Works Cited” page.
- Begin the list of sources on a new page at the end of your essay, using the same format as your essay (i.e., one-inch margins, running head, and page number).
- Center “Works Cited” at the top of the page, or if only one source “Work Cited.”
- Double-space all entries and use hanging indent [we can help with formatting].
- Entries in your list of references should be alphabetized by the first word of the line.

LINKS: “In MLA 8, it is highly recommended to include a URL in the citation. Even if it becomes outdated, it is still possible to trace the information online from an older URL. Omit ‘http://’ or ‘https://’ from the URL when including it in the citation” (EasyBib). Don't copy the link from the browser navigation bar - this is unlikely to be a stable URL. When possible, look for a stable link - often labeled Copy link, Stable link, Permalink, Bookmark or Digital Object Identifier (DOI).

SHORTCUTS: Citation generators such as “oslis.org,” “Knight Cite,”, “NCSU Citation Builder,” “EasyBib” and “Zotero” are useful tools for building clean, accurate citations. We strongly advise that you examine and control the quality of each generated citation. E.g. [abbreviation for exempli gratia (Latin) “for example”] citation generators require the user to input each building block of the citation, so take your time and apply the rule “garbage in, garbage out.”

Works Cited
