MLA Paper Format

Below are some basic guidelines for formatting a paper in MLA style. Refer to *A Writer’s Resource* for additional information on internal (or in-text) citation.

**General Guidelines**

- Type your paper on a computer, and print it out on standard, white 8.5 x 11-inch paper.
- Double-space the text of your paper.
- The font should be Times New Roman.
- The font size should be 12 pt.
- Leave only one space after periods or other punctuation marks.
- Set the margins of your document to one inch on all sides.
- Indent the first line of a paragraph one half-inch (five spaces or press tab once) from the left margin.
- Create a header that numbers all pages consecutively in the upper right-hand corner, one-half inch from the top and flush with the right margin.
- Use either italics throughout your essay for the titles of longer works and, only when absolutely necessary, providing emphasis.
- If you have any endnotes, include them on a separate page before your Works Cited page.

**Formatting the First Page of Your Paper**

- Do not make a title page for your paper.
- In the upper left-hand corner of the first page, list your name, your instructor's name, the course, and the due date. Again, be sure to use double-spaced text.
- Center the title. Don't underline your title or put it in quotation marks.
- Write the title in Title Case, not in all capital letters.
- Use quotation marks for poems and short stories, and use italics for novels and films when referring to other works in your title, just as you would in your text. Example:
  - *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* as Morality Play
  - Human Weariness in "After Apple Picking"
- Create a header in the upper right-hand corner that includes your last name, followed by a space with a page number; number all pages consecutively with Arabic numerals (1, 2, 3, 4, etc.), one-half inch from the top and flush with the right margin.