Modern Language Association (MLA) style is primarily used in the humanities, especially in English, Foreign Languages and Literatures, and Cultural Studies. With MLA style, the title of the paper is centered and is not bolded, underlined, or italicized. Margins should be 1” all around unless otherwise indicated by instructor. Paragraphs should be indented 0.5 inches from the left margin, and the entire paper is to be double-spaced throughout. The font used should be accessible (i.e., easy to read) and consistent throughout the draft. Checking with your instructor about their requirements is always a good idea, but Times New Roman is often a safe bet. In addition, the font size should be 12 point.

One of the most important aspects of MLA style is in-text citation. In this style, you place the author’s last name and the page number where the information came from in parentheses. This is the example sentence (Rogers 16). If you have already provided the author’s name in the sentence you are citing, you may leave their name out of the in-text citation and simply include the page number. Rogers says this is my second example sentence (17). Rogers says “this is my third example sentence with a quotation” (18).

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short work (“Article Name” 17). If it is a longer work, like a book, play, or movie, use italics to format the name of the longer work. Provide a page number if possible (Book Title 28).

If you have two sources that have the same last name, you can use the first name initial of each author to distinguish them in-text. This is the first example sentence (A. No’eau 34). This is the second example sentence (B. No’eau 47). If a source has two authors, list both their names. This is the example sentence of a source with two authors (Author A and Author B 34). If a source has more than two authors, you can follow the name of the first author with “et al.” This is the example sentence (Author A et al. 34). Note that there is a period at the end of the phrase “et al.” If you are citing multiple sources by the same author, you may include the name of the article or work in the in-text citation. If the title is too long, you may shorten it. This is the example sentence of citing an author’s first work (No’eau, “Article Title” 34). No’eau says this is the second example sentence of citing the second work of the same author (“Article Title” 34).

When citing non-print sources, like websites or online articles, you do not need to include a page number. When you are citing a source with multiple volumes, you can include a page number, followed by a semicolon, followed by the number for the volume. This is the example sentence (35; vol. 3).
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