**MLA Format Guideline**

MLA (Modern Language Association) style is most commonly used to write papers and cite sources within the liberal arts and humanities. This resource, updated to reflect the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (7th ed.) and the *MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing*(3rd ed.), offers examples for the general format of MLA research papers, in-text citations, endnotes/footnotes, and the Works Cited page.

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, and use a legible font (e.g. Times New Roman). Whatever font you choose, MLA recommends that the regular and italics type styles contrast enough that they are recognizable one from another. The font size should be **12 pt**.
* Leave only one space after periods or other punctuation marks (unless otherwise instructed by your instructor).
* Set the margins of your document to 1 inch on all sides.
* Indent the first line of paragraphs one half-inch from the left margin. MLA recommends that you use the **Tab key** as opposed to pushing the Space Bar five times.
* 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. (Note: Your instructor may ask that you omit the number on your first page. Always follow your instructor's guidelines.)
* **Use 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. Entitle the section Notes (centered, unformatted).