A Sample Research Paper of MLA Style

The Modern Language Association (MLA) is an organization responsible for developing MLA format, often called MLA style. MLA format was developed as a means for researchers, students, and scholars in the literature and language fields to use a uniform way to format their papers and assignments. This uniform, or consistent, method to developing an MLA paper or assignment allows for easy reading. Today, MLA is not only used in literature and language subject areas; many others have adopted it as well.

The Modern Language Association released the 8th and most current edition of their *Handbook* in April 2016. The *Handbook* provides thorough instructions on MLA format citing, as well as guidelines for submitting work that adheres to the Modern Language Association’s rules and standards. It also explains about what plagiarism is and what makes plagiarism a serious offence.¹ This 8th edition is made after changes in its previous version originally published in 1985 with name *The MLA Style Manual* (Gibaldi 15).

**FORMATTING OVERVIEW**

Use one-inch margins around the entire page. Most word processing programs automatically default to using one-inch margins.² Indent the first word in every paragraph. Sentences should begin one half inch from the left margin. It is not necessary to manually measure half an inch.

¹ T
² This 8th edition is made after changes in its previous version originally published in 1985 with name *The MLA Style Manual* (Gibaldi 15).
Use the “tab” button on the keyboard to create a half inch space. Like all other sections of the assignment, paragraphs should be double spaced.

Spacing. MLA research paper format requires that the entire research paper or MLA format essay includes double-spaced lines. Double-spaced lines should be found in between the written body of the work, in the heading, and on the MLA reference page.

While it may seem tempting to place a few extra lines between the heading, title, and beginning of the paper, lines should all be double spaced.
Notes

1. See Gilmore to learn more about the plagiarism.

2. See Gibaldi, especially part 1 for more details about the margins.

MLA recommends all end notes to be listed on a separate page with title Notes (center aligned). All notes should be 12-point Times New Roman font with double space listed by the consecutive Arabic numbers.

Indentation: The First line of each endnote should be indented 5 spaces, and subsequent lines should be flush with the left margin. Place a period and a space after each end note number.
Works Cited


