**MLA Formatting: General Guidelines**

If your instructor asks you to write a paper in MLA style, it means that you are required to make the content look in a particular way. Just as football players dress in a special way, and Italian cooks prepare meals in a special way, writers in different disciplines should follow specific rules.

MLA style formatting is mostly used for papers written in humanities and liberal arts. MLA style indicates certain formatting standards for documents and provides a referencing system for outside sources used in essays. The proper use of MLA style protects authors from being blamed in plagiarism since proper formatting allows them to use materials written by other writers in a legitimate way. Here are some general guidelines for your MLA paper:

* **Your paper should be double-spaced unless your tutor requires single-spacing.**
* **Use Times New Roman font. The recommended size is 12 pt.**
* **The margins for your paper should be 1 inch on all sides.**
* **Numbers of pages should be in the upper right-hand corner.**
* **Do not include a Title Page, unless your instructor asks you to.**
* **If you include the titles of books, articles, poems, etc. – use italics to emphasize them.**
* **The used sources should be included in your Works Cited Page in the alphabetical order**.