

## Source Citation and Organization for Research Papers

**Purpose:** After completing this assignment, students will be able to organize and cite sources using MLA format and paraphrase information they find in sources.

In-class time: none

Out-of-class time: as needed for assessment

### **Activity:**

**1. Copy works cited information for the source you're using.**

For works cited information from a variety of sources, check the MiraCosta library's online MLA page or a book on MLA style parenthetical citation.

**2. Read the material carefully and PARAPHRASE its main ideas.**

Don't copy sentences, phrases, parts of sentences, ideas, or parts of ideas. TAKE NOTES IN YOUR OWN WORDS. If you absolutely must copy part of a sentence, put that part in quotation marks so you'll know it's copied.

**3. After each idea, write the page number you found it on.**

You will need the page number when you use that idea in your research paper.

**4. For each new idea, skip a line in your notebook or get a new index card.**

If you put more than one idea on a card or run all the ideas together in your notes, it will be harder to organize the ideas later.