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.