

RESEARCH PAPER FORMAT: *MLA Handbook* (8th ed., 2016)

Formatting First Page	
• Title Page	Your paper does not require a title page, unless your professor requests one.
• Upper Left-hand Corner	Type your name, the name of the professor, the course title and the date (use the convention of “day month year”). Example: May 14, 2020 is written 14 May 2020.
• Title of Paper	The title should be centered with no underline and <i>not</i> in all capital letters.
• Page Numbering	Page numbers should be sequential, preceded by your last name and located in the upper right-hand corner of each page (one-half inch below the top margin and flush with the right margin). This is best facilitated by creating a header.

**•Format for Date
(Day Month Year)**

20 Feb. 2020
or
20 June 2020

All months except
May, June and July
are abbreviated

Dewey 1

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International Relations IAFF2093

14 May 2020

Case Study of Success: Tunisia’s Civil Society – Decree 88

A struggle for many African nations has been their inability to democratize since gaining independence in the 1950s and 1960s. Even with the third wave of democracy in the 1990s precipitated by the end of the cold war, numerous African countries that at first made reforms experienced a period of democratic backsliding (Obado-Joel 6). The reasons for the relapse were attributed to the failure of political leaders, weak democratic institutions, and an absence of civil society. However, despite this broader context, the North African country of Tunisia stands out as a positive example of a nascent democracy with a strong civil society. It has been hailed as the only success story of the Arab Spring because it continues to maintain its democracy since abolishing its authoritarian government in 2011.

The factor that has been most instrumental in accomplishing this is its vibrant civil society – and many political analysts attribute this to Decree 88, the law that governs

Formatting Paper	
• Font	Choose a readable font (for example, Times New Roman) and set it to 12 pts.
• Margins	1” margins at the top, bottom and both sides of the paper.
• Spacing	Double-space the entire paper and the Works Cited page. Leave only one space after periods and other punctuation.
• Paragraphs	Indent the first line of each new paragraph one-half inch from the left margin by using the tab key.
• Quotations	<p>Short quotations (4 typed lines or less) are not set off from the text but do require quotation marks. Example:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Thousands of organizations have been formed with “missions ranging from protecting human rights to monitoring the government to fighting corruption” (Yerkes 1).</p> <p>Long quotations (more than 4 typed lines) are indented one-half inch from the margin and remain double spaced. Quotation marks are <i>not</i> needed. The in-text citation comes <i>after</i> the closing punctuation mark.</p>

Click [MLA General Format](#) to link to Purdue University’s Online Writing Lab (OWL) for more formatting assistance.

IN-TEXT CITATIONS: *MLA Handbook* (8th ed.)

MLA requires that you document the sources in your research paper by using in-text (or parenthetical) citations at the end of each sentence in which quoted, paraphrased or summarized material appears. Each source within the body of the paper must have a corresponding entry on the Works Cited page. Below are common in-text citations.

One author – include author’s last name and page number(s) from which the information is taken.

In-Text Citation:	Known as the Jasmine Revolution, “it sparked similar protests in Egypt and Libya inaugurating the Arab Spring” (Chomiak 70).
Works Cited Entry:	Chomiak, Laryssa. “The Making of a Revolution in Tunisia.” <i>Middle East Law and Governance</i> , vol. 3, no. 1/2, Feb. 2011, pp. 68-83. <i>EBSCOhost</i> , doi: 10.1163/187633711X591431.

If author’s name is used in the sentence – include just the page number(s).

In-Text Citation:	According to Beissinger, the public mobilization that occurred during the Jasmine Revolution was due to a strong “virtual” civil society because it was initiated primarily through social media networks and not through face-to-face associations that are crucial for “conventional” civil society (351).
Works Cited Entry:	Beissinger, Mark R. “‘Conventional’ and ‘Virtual’ Civil Societies in Autocratic Regimes.” <i>Comparative Politics</i> , vol. 49, no. 3, Apr. 2017, pp. 351-371. <i>EBSCOhost</i> , doi: 10.5129/001041517820934267.

Two authors – include the last names of both authors. Three authors – use first author with et al.

In-Text Citation:	The NCA worked extensively with civil society organizations (Redissi and Boukhatyia 1).
Works Cited Entry:	Redissi, Hamadi, and Rihab Boukhatyia. “The NCA of Tunisia and Civil Society Dynamics.” <i>EUSpring</i> , 2015, pp. 1-20, www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/pais/research . Accessed 15 Mar. 2019.

Work with no author or date – include a shortened title of the work and page numbers, if available.

In-Text Citation:	“To confirm Claudius's guilt, Hamlet arranges for a play that mimics the murder [of his father]... (“Hamlet”).
Works Cited Entry:	“Hamlet.” <i>Folger Shakespeare Library</i> , https://www.folger.edu/hamlet . Accessed 18 May 2020.

Website – include author’s last name (or publisher) and page numbers, if available.

In-Text Citation:	After the Arab Spring and the installation of its interim government, Tunisia’s Freedom House scores rose from 6 to 3.5 in 2012 – and to 2 in 2015 (Freedom House).
Works Cited Entry:	Freedom House. “Freedom in the World 2018: Tunisia.” www.freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2018/tunisia . Accessed 3 Mar. 2019.

Click [MLA Citation Guide: In-text Citation](#) to link to Columbia College’s website for more examples.