Beware: Sneaky Hidden Spacing

Frequently, when we are typing a paper, our concentration is primarily on trying to convey the thoughts we have in our heads onto the page. We write, and write, and write, until we finish one thought. It is at that point we begin a new sentence.

You will note that this paragraph looks much like the first paragraph on this page. It is double spaced. As we continue to add to the paragraph, we don’t have any spacing problems. Until, that is, we move to a new paragraph.

Still, it looks very similar. Doesn’t it? The problem is that your Word or similar program is adding something called “point before” or “points after.” This is a default position for many formats.

This is what it looks like in Word.
Now, let's type our thesis exactly the same but with no distraction of additional points.

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Now, even though it is very subtle, you will see the that all lines are evenly spaced, even after starting a new paragraph. Below you can see the correct paragraph settings for even spacing,

Always use single-spacing or double-spacing. No extra lines unless they are needed to accommodate figure and table placement.