Be Specific with Citation Styles

In every academic discipline there are journals which are held as the standards. These journals expect the professionals to use a particular citation style when submitting articles for publication. A writing assignment in your class is a good opportunity for your students to learn about the style required for your profession and for them to model writing in your discipline.

On the assignment prompt or guidelines clearly require use of the style guide most often accepted in your profession's journals. For more information about the most commonly used styles click on http://www.writing.ku.edu/~writing/guides/ and then open the tab for citing/documenting your sources. For a fairly complete list of documentation styles, see List of Style Manuals.

Be specific in your instructions.

Style guides are not just about the citation style, they are also about the formatting of documents. Explain the formatting you expect them to follow. For example:

- 1 inch margins all around, or
- Times New Roman 12 point font, or
- Last name right justified in the header, or
- Page numbers lower right corner

(Use whatever standards the guide in your disciplines requires.)

Additionally, you can view and show your students examples of the most commonly used styles by visiting: http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/index.htm