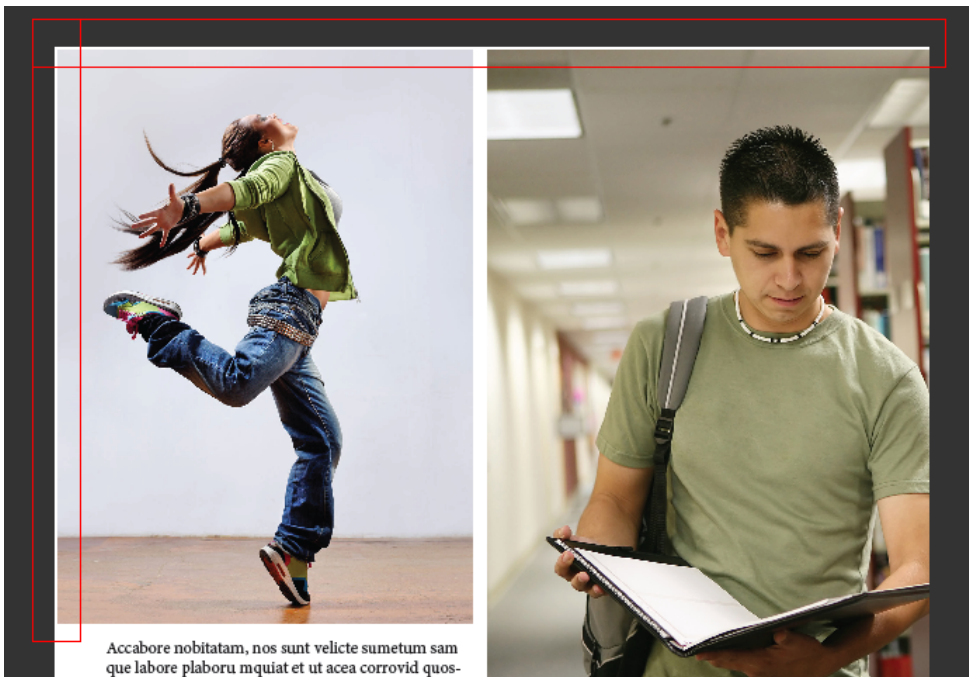# Understanding bleeds

A bleed is the area outside of the page (1/8th of an inch) that is printed on the sheet but is then trimmed off later in production. This area will often contain dominant photos, candids, backgrounds or elements that will appear to "run off" the page. Below is an example where 2 images are bleeding off the edge of the page.

The reason for the bleed is to compensate for any variance that may occur in the binding process. After pages are printed on press they are folded into sections, sewn together then trimmed to exact size before the cover is applied. Due to the complexity of those processes a small amount of area is printed outside the page so that when they are trimmed there won't be any thin white lines showing on the edges of your pages.

Below is an example what it might look like if the bleeds are not added correctly to a page.
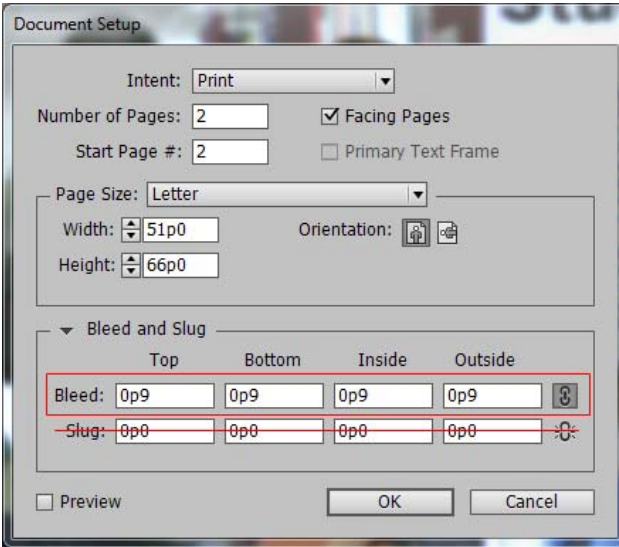

NOTE: If you do not want any objects/elements to bleed off the page place them at least 0.1667 inches (1 pica) from the edge of the page. That will prevent any non-bleeding elements from getting trimmed.
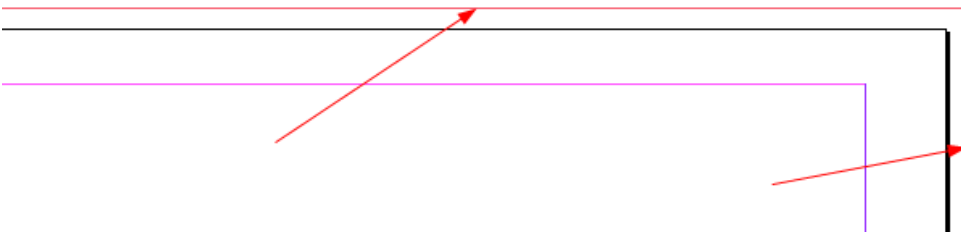
Fixing Bleeds

InDesign:

The first thing you can do to help with bleeds is to apply the bleed guides to your page in InDesign. These guides do not print but it shows you how far to place images/elements that need to run off the page (or bleed).

1. To turn on the bleed guides go to File>Document setup and in the bleed area add 0.125 inches (0p9) to the top, bottom, and outside.
    NOTE: The inside bleed is not required as it is the gutter (or center) of your spread and will not get trimmed in final production.

2. Once the guides are applied you will see a red line on the outside of your page(s).

3. When placing your images/elements make sure to extend them up to or past that red line.