

Literary Documentation

Sources: *The Little, Brown Essential Handbook* 9th ed. (LBEH9), the *MLA Handbook (MLA)* 8th ed., *MLA Works Cited Quick Guide* <https://style.mla.org/works-cited-a-quick-guide-book/>, and Purdue OWL https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_formatting_and_style_guide.html

I. IN-TEXT OR PARENTHETICAL DOCUMENTATION

- A. **A SHORT STORY, NOVEL, OR ESSAY** To indicate the specific location of direct quotations from a literary work, an in-text citation is used. See LBEH9 221-23 or https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_in_text_citations_the_basics.html The following are examples:

If the author is not named in the lead-up to the quote, his or her name is placed inside the parentheses along with the page number.

➡ Foreshadowing is evident when the boys “[make] a great pile of stones in one corner of the square and [guard] it against the raids of the other boys” (Jackson 139).

If you have stated the author's name in the text, omit the name from the parenthetical reference.

➡ Near the end of the story Jackson writes, “She snatched a paper out and held it behind her” (143).

When referencing more than one work by the same author, cite the author's last name, a shortened form of the title, and the page number.

➡ As the story opens, the narrator states, “The children assembled first, of course” (Jackson, “Lottery” 139).

- B. **POETRY** To document lines of poetry, many rules for documenting prose also apply **except that line numbers replace page numbers for the in-text citation.** (The works cited entry will contain the page(s) on which the poem appears.) For the first reference to a line of poetry, place the word *line(s)* in the parentheses with the number of the line(s) (LBEH9 226, 265 or <https://style.mla.org/im-confused-about-what-kind-of-number-to-put-in-the-parenthetical-citation-for-a-poem-a-page-number-a-line-number-or-another-part-number/>).

➡ Coleridge writes, “In Xanadu did Kubla Khan / A stately pleasure dome decree” (lines 1-2).

Notice the slash / in the above example. When quoting **three or fewer lines**, mark the line break with a slash. Put a space before and after the slash.

Subsequent references to the same poem are documented with only the line number.

➡ Coleridge describes the river which ran “Down to a sunless sea” (5).

When quoting **one line** of poetry, incorporate the line into the text with quotation marks.

➡ Coleridge describes the river which ran “Down to a sunless sea” (5).

When quoting more than **three lines** of poetry, a block (or long) quote format is used (LBEH9 265). The lines are written just as they appear in the original text, and no quotation marks are used.

➡ Coleridge opens his dream-like poem with these lines:

In Xanadu did Kubla Khan
A stately pleasure dome decree:
Where Alph, the sacred river, ran
Through caverns measureless to man
Down to a sunless sea. (1-5)

Note: The period precedes the parentheses in block quotes.

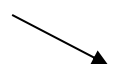
If you are referencing poems by different authors, include the names of the authors and the line number(s) in parentheses.

➡ The poem begins with the lines “In Xanadu did Kubla Khan / A stately pleasure dome decree” (Coleridge 1-2).

- C. **PROSE DRAMA** To document lines, give the page number followed by the act and scene, if any (LBEH9 226).

➡ In *Death of a Salesman*, Linda says Willie is “not the finest character that ever lived” (1204; act 1).

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- D. VERSE DRAMA** To document lines from verse drama, put the act, scene, and line numbers inside the parentheses as shown below. Use Arabic numerals for acts and scenes (*LBEH9 226*).
- ➡ In *Romeo and Juliet*, Capulet rages over Juliet's refusal to marry Paris, but the nurse stands up for Juliet saying, "You are to blame, my lord, to rate her so" (3.5.170).
- E. THE BIBLE** To document lines from the Bible, abbreviate the title of any book longer than four letters. Then give the chapter and verse(s) in Arabic numerals (*LBEH9 227*).
- ➡ In the Old Testament, God tells Noah and his sons to "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth" (Gen. 9.1).
- F. SECONDARY SOURCES** To refer to another author's comments about a literary work, document the specific source of your information. Be certain to read about finding and evaluating sources in *LBEH*, and be certain to document the information used such as in the following example:
- ➡ Hemingway's style is an attempt to get "to the things themselves" (Barrett 20).

II. WORKS CITED PAGE: On a separate works cited page, list (alphabetically) all sources, primary and secondary, used in the paper. **Double space all entries, and use a hanging indent if an entry is more than one line.** Here are some examples to follow:

- A. A SHORT STORY, POEM, PLAY (see "NOTE" under "C" below), OR ESSAY FROM AN ANTHOLOGY** (https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_works_cited_page_books.html, *LBEH9 249*, *MLA 16*, or <https://style.mla.org/works-cited-a-quick-guide-book/>).
- ➡ Jackson, Shirley. "The Lottery." *Literature: An Introduction to Reading and Writing, Compact Edition*, edited by Edgar V. Roberts and Robert Zweig. 6th ed. Pearson, 2015, pp. 139-44.
- B. TWO OR MORE SELECTIONS FROM THE SAME ANTHOLOGY** Give the source in full and cross-reference it in shortened entries for the works used. *LBEH9 249*, *MLA 115*, or <https://style.mla.org/works-cited-a-quick-guide-book/>).
- ➡ Jackson, Shirley. "The Lottery." Roberts and Zweig, pp. 139-44.
Roberts, Edgar V., and Robert Zweig, editors. *Literature: An Introduction to Reading and Writing, Compact Edition*. 6th ed. Pearson, 2015.
Welty, Eudora. "A Worn Path." Roberts and Zweig, pp. 288-92.
- C. A SHORT STORY, POEM, PLAY, OR ESSAY FROM A MULTI-VOLUME ANTHOLOGY** *LBEH9 247*, *MLA 115*, or <https://style.mla.org/works-cited-a-quick-guide-book/>). **NOTE: Italicize the title of a play.**
- ➡ Shakespeare, William. *Hamlet*. *The Norton Anthology of Western Literature*, edited by Martin Puchner et al. 9th ed. Vol. 1, Norton, 2014, pp. 2628-723.
- ➡ Whitman, Walt. "Song of Myself." *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*, edited by Robert S. Levine et al. 9th ed. Vol. C: 1865-1914, Norton, 2017, pp. 23-66.
- D. A NOVEL OR SINGLE PLAY** *LBEH9 232*, *MLA 15*, or <https://style.mla.org/works-cited-a-quick-guide-book/>).
- ➡ Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *The Great Gatsby*. Scribner, 1925.
- E. A FILM**
- (https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_works_cited_other_common_sources.html, *LBEH9 261*, *MLA 24*, or <https://style.mla.org/works-cited-a-quick-guide-book/>).
- The start of the entry depends on the focus. Here, the focus is the story.
- ➡ *Bernice Bobs Her Hair*. Directed by Joan Micklin Silver, performance by Shelly Duvall. Learning in Focus, 1976.
- F. THE BIBLE**
- (https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_in_text_citations_the_basics.html, *LBEH9 248* or *MLA 38,107*).
- ➡ *The Bible*. Authorized King James Version, Oxford UP, 1998.
- G. AN ANTHOLOGY AS A SECONDARY SOURCE** (*LBEH9 247*).
- ➡ Puchner, Martin, et al., editors. "William Shakespeare." *The Norton Anthology of Western Literature*. 9th ed. Vol. 1, Norton, 2014, pp. 2624-28.