

Citing Textual Evidence Within Your Paper

PRIMARY SOURCE: The literary work (novel, play, story, poem) to be discussed in an essay.

Example: Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*

Edgar Allan Poe's "The Tell-tale Heart"

Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*

**For most literary analysis papers, you will be using ONLY PRIMARY SOURCES

SECONDARY SOURCE: Any source (other than the primary source) referred to in the essay.

Secondary sources can include critical analyses, biographies of the author, reviews, history books, encyclopedias etc.

When citing primary or secondary sources, follow MLA style for parenthetical documentation and "Works Cited" page.

WORKS CITED: a separate page listing all the works cited in an essay. It simplifies documentation because it permits you to make only brief references to those works in the text (parenthetical documentation). A "Works Cited" page differs from a "Bibliography" in that the latter includes sources researched but not actually cited in the paper. All the entries on a "Works Cited" page are double spaced.

PARENTHETICAL DOCUMENTATION: a brief parenthetical reference placed where a pause would naturally occur to avoid disrupting the flow of your writing (usually at the end of a sentence, before the period).

Most often you will use the author's last name and page number clearly referring to a source listed on the "Works Cited" page:

Example: Hemingway's writing declined in his later career (Shien 789).

If you cite the author in the text of your paper, give only the page number in parentheses:

Example: According to Francis Guerin, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* reflects "those same nightmarish shadows that even in our own time threaten to obscure the American Dream" (49).

If two works by the same author appear in your "Works Cited," add the title or a shortened version of it to distinguish your sources:

Example: "He wouldn't rest until he had run a mile or more" (Dickens, *A Tale* 78).

BLOCK QUOTATION: quotations that are set off from the rest of the paper. Indent one-inch from the left margin only and double space. Do not use quotation marks unless they appear in the original.

1) For a prose quotation of more than 4 typed lines, start the quotation after a colon and indent each line of the quotation 10 spaces, placing the citation after the end punctuation.

Example:

Based on rumors and gossip, the children of Maycomb speculate about Boo Radley's appearance:

Boo was about six-and-a-half feet tall, judging from his tracks; he dined on raw squirrels and any cats he could catch, that's why his hands were bloodstained—if you ate an animal raw, you could never wash the blood off. There was a long jagged scar that ran across his face; what teeth he had were yellow and rotten; his eyes popped, and he drooled most of the time. (Lee 13)

2) For any prose dialogue involving 2 or more speakers, start the quotation (dialogue) after a colon and have each line of dialogue as its own paragraph (a 10-space indentation), placing the citation information after the end punctuation.

Example: During the trial scene, Bob Ewell immediately shows his disrespect for both the court and his family:

“Are you the father of Mayella Ewell?” was the next question.

“Well, if I ain't I can't do nothing about it now, her ma's dead,” was the answer. (Lee 172)