

Workshop: MLA in-text citations and Works Cited

The following is just a primer. For detailed instructions, consult *AWE* 59-61

Home essays in English Courses require citations to support the thesis. English essays use a documentation style called MLA (Modern Language Association) format. There are two kinds of citation in English essays: primary sources, and secondary sources.

Primary sources:

These are direct passages or specific paraphrase from the work of literature (story, play, poem, etc) you are analysing. They may range from a few words to a whole passage. They can be exact wording from the text, placed in quotation marks, or paraphrase of the text. In both forms, you must supply the page number cited or paraphrased by placing the numeral in parenthesis. The first citation to a text in an essay requires the author's surname, followed by a space, followed by the page numeral of the source. Ongoing references to the same source within the same paragraph of the essay require only the numeral. The following excerpt from an essay on "Araby" illustrates these rules. Single words are not normally documented. Note that most sentence punctuation will follow the parenthetical reference.

When she first mentions the travelling bazaar, "Araby," which the boy later calls "the magical name" (Joyce 113), she fidgets with a silver bracelet (112), a symbol of worldly interests foreshadowing the silver platter on which the men count money at the close of the bazaar (114).

Secondary sources:

In a research essay, you must quote from primary sources as well as from secondary sources. Secondary sources are direct passages or paraphrase of texts by someone commenting on primary sources: a critic, biographer, historian, or an encyclopedia, for example. Secondary sources are used to support (or sometimes contrast) points you make about the primary texts as set out in your thesis. Citations from secondary sources are documented the same way as primary sources, with the author of the book, essay, etc. being used instead. If the article is unpaginated give paragraph number quoted (Smith par. 23). The Uvic Library Website opening page has a search engine for articles in its online databases. For your convenience I have placed a Library Search engine shortcut on the Moodle page in the right column. To access articles on literary works, select Start Here SUMMON from the drop down ladder. In the search field, type in search words (I suggest starting with author's surname and a key word in the title of the literary work). You will be prompted for your Netlink ID and password. Look for articles available as full text [FT]. Most articles open either in PDF format or in plain text. The following excerpt from an essay on "Araby" includes a citation from the primary source and one from a secondary source found on the Library database server. Key words used to search for the article were **joyce** and **araby**.

The conflict between the boy's idealization of Mangan's sister and the reality of the mundane world which the boy is trying to escape reaches a crisis point when he finally gets to the bazaar, "remembering with difficulty why I had come" (Joyce 114). The key to this sudden painful epiphany is a subtle parallel his mind makes between the exalted creature he adores and the down-to earth salesgirl he encounters, who is clearly bored and in the process of flirting with two young men. As one critic puts it, "the vision of Mangan's sister fades into the physical presence of the young woman at the bazaar. The idealized image and its setting fade into the harsh reality of the concrete and necessary world" (Brugaletta 17). The boy begins to realize that Mangan's sister is not the ideal female whose love will rescue him from the deadening materialism of middle class Dublin.

The Works Cited List:

At the end of an MLA style research essay, an alphabetical list (by author) of primary and secondary sources cited in the essay is required. This list is similar to a bibliography, except that it consists only of sources incorporated into the essay, whereas a bibliography may include sources consulted but not cited. Normally the Works Cited list goes on a separate page after the essay unless there is plenty of room on the last page of text.

Note that different kinds of sources—a book, a printed article, an online database article, etc.—are presented in different ways. The entry for a short work such as a short story below follows the style of "Poem or short story in an edited anthology AWE 61. The entry for the secondary source in the text box below follows the style of "Article from a Database" AWE 61. I have single spaced for compactness, but you are permitted to double space the Works Cited.

Works Cited

Brugaletta, J. J. "Motivation for Anguish in Joyce's 'Araby.'" *Studies in Short Fiction* 15.1 (1978): 11-17. *Periodicals Index Online*. Web. 21 Jan. 2013.

Joyce, James. "Araby." *Elements of Literature: Poetry, Fiction, Drama*. Fourth Canadian edition. Eds. Scholes et al. Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford UP, 2010. 111-14. Print.