

Poem & Play MLA Tipsheet

Poem

In-text Citation

Format: Part. Stanza. Line Numbers

Example: In Emily Dickinson's poem "Success is Counted Sweetest," the speaker states, "Not one of all the purple Host / Who took the Flag today / Can tell the definition / So clear of victory" (1.1.5-8).

If the poem only has lines use the word "lines" and the line numbers of quoted content.

Example: In "When I Heard the Learn'd Astronomer," the speaker states, "How soon unaccountable I became tired and sick / Till rising and gliding out I wander'd off by myself" (Whitman, lines 5-8).

(When a poem quote is three lines or more it needs to be in block format.)

Works Cited - Anthology Website

Format: Poem's Author. "Title." *Anthology Website*, Date. DOI or URL.

Example:

Shakespeare, William. "Sonnet 33: Full Many a Glorious Morning Have I Seen." *Poetry Foundation*, Nov. 2024. <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/45093/sonnet-33-full-many-a-glorious-morning-have-i-seen>.

Works Cited -Anthology Book Collection

Format: Author of Work. "Title of Work." *Title of Book*, Editor, Publisher, Year, Page Number.

Example:

Wagner, David. "The Source." *The Vintage Book of Contemporary American Poetry*, Edited by J.D. McClatchy, Vintage Books, 2003, pp.216.

Play

In-text Citation

Format: Act. Scene. Line Numbers

Example:

Historical play author William Shakespeare writes, "Leonato: I learn in this letter that Don Peter of Arragon comes this night to Messina" (1.1.2-3).

Works Cited

Format: Author. *Title of Play*. Publisher, Year. *Database Name*, URL.

Example:

Shakespeare, William. *Much Ado about Nothing*. PG Shakespeare Team, 1998. *The Project Gutenberg*, <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/1519/1519-h/1519-h.htm>.