

Documenting Sources in ENC 1102

The basic principles of the MLA (Modern Language Association) style that you (hopefully) learned in ENC 1101, still apply here. The only real difference is in the nature of the sources, as we are dealing with the various aspects of literature here and not concrete subjects, like homelessness, cancer, or global warming, for example. If you missed my earlier essay about reading and writing about literature, I'd suggest you check that out. It's also on my website.

The most important part of documentation is to make it clear where your information came from.

That sounds simple enough, but it apparently isn't as students often make mistakes in that area. I ought to be able to find any of the sources in your paper by using the citations on your Works Cited page. If the information isn't clear, complete, or correct, I may not be able to find it. Once I found the source, I could then look it over to see whether you have accurately reflected what is stated there, whether it's a direct quote, paraphrase, or summary.

Toward that end, I require that you give me photocopies of all the pages you cite in your paper.

Don't forget the photocopies, or else you will get your paper back immediately from me when you turn it in. Where you look for sources is something we talked about in class. Right now, we are just concerned with how you document those sources once you do find and use them in your papers. You also need to be sure your Works Cited page is complete and correct.

There are many different types of sources. The two basic types we will generally be using are print and electronic. Print refers to books and journals. Electronic refers to electronic journals, databases, and websites.

As I noted in class, our resources at the community college are somewhat limited as our library is more than just a college library and, at the same time, less than that. Literary journals are quite limited. Our reference works and books of criticism are also somewhat limited. That's why reference sources like *Twentieth Century Literary Criticism* (TCLC), *Contemporary Literary Criticism* (CLC), and *Short Story Criticism* (SSC) are important tools of research here where at a university you might be allowed to use that at all. These type of sources are quite useful. They contain biographical information about authors, as well as criticism compiled from many different sources, which we just don't have access to at the college. Knowing how to use and cite these sources is important, and this is where we will start.

Here's how to use excerpts from *Contemporary Literary Criticism* in a paper.

The single-mindedness of many critics had a major influence on how more casual readers viewed Hemingway's characters, which they often couldn't separate from their image of Hemingway himself. A clear belief often expressed was that "The central figure in Hemingway's stories is strong, rugged, masculine—a kind of champ" (Bellman 234). However, some critics were able to point to what might be considered a paradox in his writing that ". . . despite his image as a hairy-chested writer, he was fully capable of viewing things from the female point of view, as he does in such stories as 'Up in Michigan' and 'Hills Like White Elephants'" (Lehmann-Haupt 415).

Here is how each of these entries would appear on the Works Cited Page.

Works Cited

Bellman, Samuel, *The Southern Review*, Vol. IV, No. 3, Summer, 1968, p. 837; excerpted and reprinted in *Contemporary Literary Criticism*, Volume 3, ed. Carolyn Riley (Detroit: Gale Research, 1987, 234).

Lehmann-Haupt, Christopher, in a review of "Hemingway," *New York Times*, July 13, 1987, p. C18; excerpted and reprinted in *Contemporary Literary Criticism*, Volume 50, ed. Sharon Hall (Detroit: Gale Research, 1988, 415).

Notice how these are cited in the sample from the paper and on the Works Cited page. It has to be clear what source is actually being cited. One is from a journal (*The Southern Review*), and one is from *The New York Times*. Of course, neither of these was found in its original source. They were both in editions of CLC. The page numbers in the parentheses in the paper are from CLC. The photocopies of those pages cited will be from CLC. This will make it fairly easy for me to find the area you cited and then go back to your paper to see how accurate you were. This is the same way you would do it for TCLC or SSC.

Sometimes, though, we do find book sources for criticism.

On the next page is a part of the research paper on Edgar Allan Poe, which is also on my website:

In his book, *The Genius of Edgar Allan Poe*, Georges Zayed states, “One fact which is nevertheless certain is that Poe brought the short story to its perfection, and excelled in all kinds of tales” (87).

Here is the *Works Cited* entry for this citation:

Zayed, Georges. *The Genius of Edgar Allan Poe*. Cambridge, MA: Schenkman Publishing Company, Inc., 1985.

Later in the paper, the author uses another quote from this same source:

The impact of not having a psychological identity surely played an important part in shaping the type of person and writer that Poe would become. Mr. Allan’s death was just one of many that Poe would have to face in his short life. The deaths of his loved ones and friends led to Poe’s preoccupation with death. As an artist, Poe viewed death differently than his contemporaries:

If death assumed such importance in Poe’s works, it is because more than others he came to know the tragic content of the word—and at a very early age. It struck several times “at his chamber door”; it took away his parents, then Mrs. Allan, his adopted mother, and Mrs. Stanard, and his brother; finally his young wife, his beloved Virginia. How could he have escaped from his obsession with it and from the terror which it instilled in him? (Zayed 93)

Notice that the extended quote (more than 30 words from the original) is offset 10 spaces from the left, and there are no quotation marks. Notice that the end punctuation comes *before* the parenthetical reference. In the MLA style, extended quotes are double-spaced. You may also single-space for me for this assignment. The sample paper is single-spaced.

Sometimes the work cited is from a book edited by someone else. On the following page, there is an excerpt from the paper on Hawthorne, which is also on my website.

“The heroic traits awakened in her character by her position were the great self-sustaining properties of woman, which, in tribulation and perplexity, elevate her so far above man. The sullen defiance in her, was imparted to her by society” (Loring 157). After and throughout the years of her alienation she had suppressed her true character. She wears drab clothes and conceals her long, beautiful hair at all times, except in the forest scene. Hester, as a result of those years of alienation, had fallen into hypocrisy.

Here’s the *Works Cited* entry for this source:

Loring, George B. “Hawthorne’s *Scarlet Letter*” [1850] *The Scarlet Letter: Text, Sources, Criticism*. Kenneth S. Lynn, ed. New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc., 1961.

Notice that this is an essay within a book of essays. It is edited by someone other than the author of that article, but you cite the author of the article in the essay and not the editor.

If you need to cite the work you are writing about, here is how to do it:

“Be not silent from any mistaken pity and tenderness for him; believe me, Hester, though he were to step down from a high place, and stand there beside thee, on thy pedestal of shame, yet better were it so, that to hide a guilty heart through life. What can thy silence do for him except it tempt him-yea, compel him, as it were- to add hypocrisy to sin?” (Hawthorne 63)

Here is the *Works Cited* entry:

Hawthorne, Nathaniel. *The Scarlet Letter*. New York: Bantam Books, 1986.

Citing poetry is a little different. You can either cite lines of a poem within the flow of the text of your paper or offset the line, regardless of number of words.

There are some examples on the next page:

Suppose you were analyzing one of the poems of James Wright, someone we talked about and read in class. Here's how you might do it:

Many times, when reading poems by James Wright, we find that he lulls us into a sense of thinking we know what he's talking about and being sure that the message is clear and unambiguous. As we have seen, though, in "Lying On A Hammock On William Duffy's Farm In Pine Island, Minnesota," Wright is able to shake us out of that almost smugness in a single line.

I lean back, as the evening darkens and comes on.
A chicken hawk floats over, looking for home.
I have wasted my life. (lines 11-13, 122)

We have introduced both the poet and the title of his poem before we cite the lines from the poem. The lines are listed, as is the page number from the book of poems. It is also single-spaced.

Here is the *Works Cited* entry for this:

Wright, James. *Above The River: The Complete Poems And Selected Prose*, Boston: Farrar, Straus and Giroux and University Press of New England, 1990.

Another way of doing this would be like this:

Wright has the ability to change our whole view of a poem in just one line, as when in "Lying On A Hammock On William Duffy's Farm In Pine Island, Minnesota," he gives us a wake up call in the last line, "I have wasted my life" (122).

The other thing you might be wondering about now is electronic sources. Earlier, I said these could be either websites or databases. Websites present many problems when we try to use them for sources of information, whether we are writing about literature or not. Databases are generally just ways and places to store information that came from print sources. I say generally, because there are now online journals that do not have an in-print counterpart. However, this seems to be more true for contemporary literature than it does for what might be called "classic" literature.

However, you will still need to know how to document these sources.

Let's say that you decided to do some research on your computer from home. You decide to go to the Broward County Library. This can be done through your Internet provider and typing in the URL for the library. You could also go to BCC's website and click on Library. You look for electronic databases and click on Literature. The site asks you for your library card number, name, and last four digits from your phone number. If all that is in order, you get to the Literature Resource Center. There's a box labeled "Author Search." Let's type in James Wright. There are several people named James Wright, but we want James Arlington Wright, 1927-1980. We select him and then we get a page with several options. The first page is biographical in nature. The next page is labeled Literary Criticism, Articles, and Work Overview. Let's explore this. There are four pages of articles listed. Scrolling down, we find one about our favorite Wright poem, so we click on that entry. The article is an excerpt from another article. In that sense, it is much like one we might find in TCLC or CLC. We print the article out and, at some point, we will incorporate it into our paper.

Here's how we would list the entry on our *Works Cited* page:

Spendal, R.J., review of "Lying in a Hammock at William Duffy's Farm in Pine Island,

Minnesota," in *Explicator*, May, 1976. Reproduced in Literature Resource Center.

This is how you would deal with any article you find through a database through our library or any other library. You could do a similar search through the University College Library at Central Campus. If you're off campus, you would need to have your BCC Smartcard handy as that is the number you would use to get to their databases. One word of warning, though. At this time you still need to go to Central Campus' library to activate the card. I'm working on changing that.

If you go to a search engine, such as Yahoo or Google, you can also look for information about authors and their works. Realize, however, that this may not be as legitimate or "scholarly" as the databases. For all you know, that website on the poetry of Anne Sexton may be maintained by a 12 year old that also has a Britney Spears website. Probably not. Anyway, be careful of how you use website information. Professors will not be too accepting of information from these sources.

All of that being said, let's try a search engine approach. Actually, let's not just yet. Elsewhere on my website is a section called "Links for Literary Research on the Web." If you go there, you can also do some serious searching. One sight, "The Bedford/St. Martins Literature and Linguistics Site," is designed to accompany the literature books they publish. If you click on that, you will come to section labeled "Student Resources." Under that is a link labeled "LitLinks." Clicking on that, you find other choices in the various genres for literature. Click on "Poetry." You see alphabetical listings of poets. We see James Wright. Clicking on that, we come to a page with one link on it. Some writers have more. Clicking on that, we find out that the site is from the American Academy of Poets, which is a very reputable organization. There are recordings of his poems, pictures, and other links. We see one link that says it has interviews with him. This site is from the University of Washington's English Department. If you decide to use anything from this site, print the pages out so you will have them for your sourcebook.

Here is how I would list this in my *Works Cited* page (see next page):

James Wright Interviews, University of Washington English Department, 1972, <http://depts.washington.edu/engl/wright.html>, 4.06.02.

If you look at this entry, you see the date, 1972. That was when the interviews were done. I can't tell from the site when this was actually put on the Internet. If there had been a copyright date, that would have helped. The last date is when I accessed the information. For the purists out there, this isn't a totally correct way to do this citation, but since I said at the beginning of this that the point of documentation was to make clear where your information came from and also so that I could find it myself from that documentation, this is correct for us.

The only other thing you might want to try is going to a regular search engine. This time we will try Yahoo. Typing in "James A. Wright," I find the first three listings deal with the right person. The second one is the same site from the American Academy of Poets we found before. The first one is from Modern American Poetry. It has a great picture of Wright and several links. The links seem to be excerpts from other sources. There's a commentary on "Lying in a Hammock at William Duffy's Farm in Pine Island, Minnesota," which I don't agree with at all (remember, it's all right for you to not agree with a critic in your paper). You could use information from this source in your paper. Just be sure you include as much identifying information as you can. There are actually several critics cited in this entry. Like the previous one, it is not clear when this information was put on the Internet. The comments from Thom Gunn were written in 1964 and included in an anthology in 1990. If you use the information included from Gunn in your paper, this is how I'd probably cite it:

On "Lying in a Hammock on William Duffy's Farm in Pine Island, Minnesota," Modern American Poetry, http://www.english.uiuc.edu/maps/poets/s_z/j_wright/hammock.htm, from Thom Gunn, "Modes of Control," a review of *The Branch Will Not Break* in *The Yale Review* (1964), rep. in Peter Stitt and Frank Graziano, eds. *James Wright: The Heart of the Light* (Ann Arbor, U Michigan P, 1990), p. 160, 4.06.02.

The last date up there is when I accessed the website and printed it out.

As you can see, using the Internet as a source of information is tricky. Properly citing the sources is even trickier. I hope this has helped rather than confused your search for information as to how you should cite and document your sources overall.

If you're unclear about something, there are plenty of sources, both in print and online, that you can consult. You can also ask me, in class or through email.

Good luck!