

## How to Cite Literary Reference Materials in MLA Style (7<sup>th</sup> ed.)

(Sometimes the **Cart** goes before the **Horse**: An approach to citing resources)

**Explanation:** Reference books are typically cited by individual **items (articles)** within the books. Searching PBCC databases for reference sources generates a **Result List** containing separate articles.

(Note: 12 point type required. For space considerations, we use 11 point in examples below).

Instructions for citing literary reference sources:

1. Begin by creating the **Works Cited** list. This list consists of all sources **paraphrased** and **quoted** in a research paper and should be arranged in **alphabetical order**.

### Sample Works Cited

Henningfeld, Diane Andrews. "Overview of 'Hills Like White Elephants'." *Short Stories for Students*.

Ed. Tim Akers. Vol. 6. Detroit: Gale Group, 1999. 164-66. *Gale Virtual Reference Library*.

Web. 27 Jul. 2009.

"Hills Like White Elephants." *Short Stories for Students*. Ed. Tim Akers. Vol. 6. Detroit: Gale Group,

1999. 155-72. *Gale Virtual Reference Library*. Web. 27 Jul. 2009.

Johnston, Kenneth G. "'Hills Like White Elephants' : Lean, Vintage Hemingway." *Studies in American*

*Fiction* 10.2 (1982): 233-38. Rpt. in *Short Stories for Students*. Ed. Tim Akers. Vol. 6. Detroit:

Gale Group, 1999. 166-69. *Gale Virtual Reference Library*. Web. 27 Jul. 2009.

Maynard, Reid. "Leitmotif and irony in Hemingway's 'Hills Like hite Elephants'." *The University*

*Review* 37.4 (1971): 273-75. Rpt. in *Short Stories for Students*. Ed. Tim Akers. Vol. 6.

Detroit: Gale Group, 1999. 170-72. Print.

Mazzeno, Laurence W. "Ernest Hemingway." *Critical Survey of Short Fiction*, 2<sup>nd</sup> rev. ed. N.p.:

Salem, 2001. *Literary Reference Center*. Web. 3 August 2009.

"Overview: *The Cider House Rules*." *Characters in 20th-Century Literature*. Ed. Laurie Lanzen Harris.

Detroit: Gale Research, 1990. *Literature Resource Center*. Web. 27 July 2009.

Weeks, Lewis E. "Hemingway Hills: Symbolism in 'Hills Like White Elephants'," *Studies in Short*

*Fiction* 17.1 (1980): 75-77. Rpt. in *Short Stories for Students*. Ed. Tim Akers. Vol. 6. Detroit:

Gale Group, 1999. 169-70. *Gale Virtual Reference Library*. Web. 27 Jul. 2009.

**Note:** The citation of the Laurence Mazzeno article is correct. The citation taken directly from the database is incorrect. **Advice:** Do not rely fully on the citations generated by databases.



**Databases with Literary resources:**

*Gale Virtual Reference Library*

*Literary Reference Ctr. (EBSCO)*

*Literature Resources from Gale*

2. Next, cite **paraphrased** and **quoted** sources within your paper according to the entries in the **Works Cited** list. Paraphrased sources are cited using a (1) **signal phrase** or (2) **parenthetical citation**.

The examples provided below are tied to the sample **Works Cited** list on the opposite page.

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### Signal phrase

... According to Maynard, the girl's character responds with more imagination (172).

### Parenthetical Citations

**Example 1**

... There are tough choices made by the character, Jig. ("Hills" 158).

**Example 2**

Hemingway's setting is Spain and... (Johnston 166).

### Quotation

... In "Hills Like White Elephants," symbolism is "... implicit in the title and developed in the story [and] contributes more than any other single quality to the powerful impact" (Weeks 169).

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3. For assistance with details of grammar, spelling, and other writing aspects, visit the **SLC Writing Lab**.
  4. Finally, consider several guidelines from the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. (2009):
    - No underlining; use italics instead (see 3.3, pp. 78-9).
    - When to include URL:
      - if, without it, reader could face difficulty finding source
      - if **your instructor requires it**
    - **Flexibility of MLA style:** "improvise" when unanticipated features encountered
    - **"Be consistent..."** with styles when writing all citations
    - **Verification of websites:** chance of "disappearing sites, ... download, ... print, [or email]..." retrieved references and save for later – just in case (5.6.1, pp. 182-3)