TO: Ms. Bujnowski’s ECHS Class
FROM: Mrs. Powers (dpowers@billerica.k12.ma.us)
TOPIC: Whitman and Poets
Date: March 25, 2013

BMHS Home Page: https://bmhsresearch.wikispaces.com Access the catalog, databases e-books and Lib Guides from this link. Pull down the English Language Arts tab on the Lib Guide page and choose Whitman and Poets.

Print Resources

Use the BMHS online catalog to find books that match your specific topic. There are a number of them. Poetry is in the 811 section of the library.

Reference:

REF 303.48 NES Encyclopedia of American Social Movements Also one of the Sharpe Reference databases
REF 809.1 WOR World Poets (3 vols)
REF 810.72 HAB Romanticism and Transcendentalism: 1820-1865
REF 810.72 CUS Research Guide to American Literature (multi volumes)
REF 810.989 SAM Encyclopedia of African-American Literature
REF 920 ENC Encyclopedia of World Biography
REF 920.73 AME American National Biography
REF 973.03 ENC Encyclopedia of American History
REF 973.04 MIL American Slavery (contains primary sources)
REF 973.049 AFR African American History (3 vols)
REF 973.049 STE The African American Years
REF 973.5 ENC Encyclopedia of the United States in the Nineteenth Century
REF 973.6 FRA United States and Mexico at War
REF 973.7 ENC Encyclopedia of the American Civil War 4 vols
REF 973.9 AME America in the 20th Century (a book for each decade)
REF 973.91 ROA Roaring Twenties
REF 973.91 AME American Decades a volume for each decade: 1900-2000)
*REF 973.91 to 973.92 There is a set of books for each decade from the 1930s through the 1990s. Find the section in a decade volume that includes the letter M to find the Music article. There will be a very good description of types of music and titles of popular songs for that decade.

e-Books: Link to e-books from the left side of the library home page.

- Gale Virtual Reference Library Choose History on the left hand side for a number of subject encyclopedias that have good information. Password: indian

- Infobase Publishing. Look on the left side of the opening page for History Username: indian Password: 01821
Online Resources

Databases  Access to passwords for all the databases will be at the top of the page. Link to “Databases and e-Book passwords” You will need the password billerica from home.

Literary Databases:

EBSCO Literary Reference Center - Username: billerica  Password: indian
Superb resource  Be sure to check the Full Text option.

Literature Resource Center - Password: indian
has full-text literary criticism and reviews on 130,000 writers and their works. Search by author or title. You must go to All Gale Databases. Look for this source in the bottom right hand corner of the database page. Scroll down to the bottom of the page for this title.

Historical Databases:

ABC-CLIO Access all databases  From this page, you should check the box for American History and Pop Culture Universe for the resources you need. An article described as “individual” is a biography.
Username and Password: billerica2

Gale’s History Resource Center: U.S.  This resource has biographies, primary sources, general articles and images.  excellent source

Facts on File: Issues and Controversies in American History
Provides good background information on a number of topics.
Username: billerica  Password: indian

Salem Press  All the information is also in print form in the reference section.
Look for “Remote access login” on the tab at the top to log on.
Password: 01821

Sharpe Reference Online
Choose from the list of history databases that matches the time period of your person.  Social Issues in America is one example for excellent background material.
Username: billerica  Password: bmhs01821
What is a Thesis Statement?

It is:

- a point of view or your opinion on a subject. You have to find information that will back up and support your position.
- a position about a topic that you must defend.
- a statement you make that someone can say to you, “I don’t agree, prove it”.

A thesis is not:

- a statement of fact that everyone can agree with.
  - “School starts at 7:15 AM” is a fact.
  - “High school students would have better grades if school started at 9:00AM” is a thesis statement.
- too general.
  - “Carl Sandburg wrote a good poem about people” is too general.
- an announcement.
  - “This paper is about how Emily Dickinson describes loneliness” is an announcement.

You must have a lot of information about your topic in order to form an opinion or have a point of view.
Terms to Know to Help with your Research

Criticism (in relation to literature):

➢ is an evaluation or judgment of a literary work

Abstract:

➢ is a summary of an article. It will include the major points of the article. It saves time to read one instead of the whole article to see if there is anything that pertains to your topic.

Authoritative:

➢ means highly reliable; sources have been checked for accuracy

Keyword vs a Subject search using an online catalog:

➢ A **keyword** (“all words” on the BMHS catalog) is
  - a significant word that relates to the topic you are researching.

➢ A **subject search** will return only those records that include the words in the subject heading category of the item. Subject headings are very specific terms chosen by the database creator. A subject search is good when you know the specific subject you are looking for, but always perform a keyword search to make sure you haven’t missed something.

Database:

➢ is a collection of information that has been gathered for a specific purpose. Often companies sell databases to organizations and are known as subscription databases.

☞ **Subscription database examples:** Gale Discovering Collection, EBSCO Literary Reference Center and ABC-CLIO.

Work Cited vs Bibliography:

➢ **Work cited** is a list of the resources you quoted or cited in the body of your paper.
➢ **Bibliography** is a list of everything you looked at even if you didn’t use it.
**Step by Step: Writing a Thesis Paper**

_____ Make sure you understand the assignment and the vocabulary that is necessary for success.

_____ Pick a topic and read a brief article from a general source, like an encyclopedia, for basic information and for some keywords.

_____ Ask a question related to something you’ve read about your topic that can lead to a thesis.

_____ Begin to create a thesis statement you think you can prove.

_____ Gather information and take notes that will support your thesis using print, databases, and authoritative websites. Don’t forget to keep track of your sources.

_____ Create a graphic organizer or outline to choose and organize the information you have gathered that will support your thesis.

_____ Write a rough draft using your organizer or outline.

_____ Make sure your information supports your thesis and is logically organized.

_____ Conference with your teacher or peers.

_____ REVISE, REVISE, REVISE, REVISE, REVISE, REVISE, REVISE

_____ Submit the rough draft to Turnitin.

_____ Use MLA Style for your work cited page. Look for Citing Your Sources on the BMHS Library page. Look for the BMHS Guide to Citing Your Sources link for examples and directions on how to create specific entries. Also, KnightCite and Son of Citation will help you create an entry.
Your Research Paper Rough Draft

Before Writing:

1. Use your outline to write your rough draft.
2. Make sure you have your note cards nearby so you can cite your information properly and create your Works Cited page.

Your Rough Draft:

1. Include your thesis statement in your introduction. In addition, introduce the major points you will use to support your ideas.
2. Usually avoid “I” and “you” in a formal paper.
3. Use topic sentences. Topic sentences go at the beginning of each supporting paragraph. They let your reader know what the whole paragraph is about and how it relates to your thesis. A topic sentence IS NOT a plot detail.
4. Write full paragraphs consisting of at least five sentences.
5. Avoid plot summary. Whenever you relate plot details, you must explain how they relate to your thesis.
6. Use a blend of information from your sources, the original work of literature, and your own ideas in each supporting paragraph.
7. Use a variety of paraphrases and quotes from your sources.
8. Blend quotes grammatically into your sentences.
9. Explain the quotes.
10. Include a title.
IN-TEXT CITATION EXAMPLES
(also known as parenthetical citation)

You must give credit for the ideas and words you have used from others. You will include the source at the end of the sentence, group of sentences, or quote by matching brief citations in parentheses ( ) with the information you have provided in the alphabetical list in the Works Cited page. You will include in your citation the first word of the author’s or editor’s last name or if there is no author, the title of an article or short work and a page number from which the quote or idea came.

Example: A sentence like this may be found in your research paper.

In the 1800’s, disease began to be seen as something that invaded solid parts of the body (Barry 26).

The citation, (Barry 26), tells readers that the information in this sentence was taken from page 26 of a work by an author named Barry. To find more information about this source, they may go to the Works Cited list where, under the name Barry, they would find the following:


If you have included the name of the author in the text of your paper: place the page number in parentheses with the period at the end of the parentheses.

Barry stated that in the 1800’s, disease began to be seen as something that invaded solid parts of the body (26).

If you have *not* included the name of the author in the text of your paper: place the author and page number in parentheses with the period at the end of the parentheses.

In the 1800’s, disease began to be seen as something that invaded solid parts of the body. (Barry 26).

If the page number is unknown: leave out the page number and just include the author.

This will be true for most web sources. In fact, MLA recommends you do not use page numbers with web sources unless it is a pdf file.
Examples of integrating critical sources in a literary research paper

**Example One:** Outside critical sources to support your point of view.

*The Breakfast Club* was one of the best movies I’ve seen. The characters in this movie seem to blend together and have more in common than they thought. This movie relates to the everyday teenager stereotypes, except that you learn to see the good more so than the bad. “This story gets to the heart of high school where everyone tries to live up to their label afraid they will be discovered to be something different than they are perceived”. ([crazy4cinema.com](http://crazy4cinema.com))

**Student paragraph**

OR

*The Breakfast Club* was one of the best movies I’ve seen. The characters in this movie seem to blend together and have more in common than they thought. This movie relates to the everyday teenager stereotypes, except that you learn to see the good more so than the bad. As the reviewer for [crazy4cinema.com](http://crazy4cinema.com) noted, “This story gets to the heart of high school where everyone tries to live up to their label afraid they will be discovered to be something different than they are perceived”.

**Example Two:** Using the book’s words to support your point of view.

…. As Holden says, he was “trying to feel some kind of a good-by,” a good-bye he had missed in the past. This is the first hint - slight one – of the grief Holden feels and is attempting to face. He may be only sixteen, but as everyone eventually experiences, he’s suffering the pain that comes with loss.

*J.D. Salinger’s The Catcher in the Rye*  
Find reviews of Walt Whitman to see what the critics said and what conditions existed at the time he wrote. Do the same for your chosen poet.

Form an opinion on how their works reflect the conditions that existed when they wrote the poems. Consider these questions:

1. Was he or she trying to influence society in the same way Whitman did or was he or she reacting to society at the time in which they wrote?

2. Did your poet have the same effect on their society as Whitman did?

3. Was it a "wake up call" to his or her audience for what was happening at the time?

4. What are the similarities and differences between your poet and Whitman in terms of social conditions?

5. How was your poet received during his or her lifetime?

6. Did his or her work and Whitman's poetry change the public's thinking or just that of the literary world?

*The selected poem will have to be one that talks about the human condition and place in society rather than ones about love or scary subjects for example.

*If you have another poet to propose, you must get my permission and be prepared to justify your choice.