TO: American Experience II Classes  
FROM: Mrs. Powers  
TOPIC: Authors and Their Times  
DATE: April 9, 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 Authors & Their Times II.

Print Resources

Use the online catalog to find reference and regular collection books. Be sure to notice the Call Number which indicates if the book is in the reference or regular collection.

Reference Sources:

The 800 section has books on literature topics.

REF 809 NON Nonfiction Classics for Students - there are 3 volumes  
REF 808.82 DRA Drama for Students - various volumes  
REF 809.89287 FEM Feminism Literature - Be sure to choose the correct volume for your author  
REF 809.3 NOV Novels for Students - there are 9 volumes in our collection  
REF 809.93 LIT Literature and Its Times – 300 literary works and the historical events that influenced them  
REF 810.92 STU Students Encyclopedia of American Literary Characters  
REF 810.989 NOT Notable African American Writers  
REF 820.9 MCC Encyclopedia of Themes in American Literature

The 973 reference section has many historical subject encyclopedias that may have good information. I have selected a few as examples.

REF 973.03 ENC Encyclopedia of American History 2nd Edition - up to date version  
REF 973.049 AFR African American History (3 vols)  
REF 973.049 STE The African American Years  
REF 973.92 AME American Decades There is a volume for each decade 1999-2000 to 2000-2009  
*REF 973.92 through 973.93 has sets on each decade. Excellent Sources. Also on the Salem Press databases.

e-Books: Link to e-books on the left side of the home page. Excellent sources for your topics.

Gale Virtual Reference Library Choose History or Literature on the left hand side for a number of subject encyclopedias with good information.  
Password: indian

Infobase Publishing. On that page link to History or Literature on the left for individual titles.  
Username: indian    Password: 01821
Online Resources

Databases: BMHS Databases and e books passwords\textsuperscript{2} will provide the user names and passwords for all the databases to which we subscribe. Password to access this page is billerica.

- Link to ABC-CLIO Access all databases
  Check the boxes for American History and Pop Culture Universe. Username and password are both: billerica\textsuperscript{2}

- Gale’s Databases:
  - History Resource Center: U.S. for biographies, primary sources, general articles and Images. excellent source 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 in.
  - Password: 01821

- Sharpe Reference Online
  - Link to Counter Culture and/or Culture Wars database. Same information is in print form in the reference section.
  - Username: billerica Password: bmhs01821

- Literature Resource Center has full-text literary criticism and reviews on 130,000 writers and their works. Search by author or title.
  - You may also link to this from All Gale Databases at the top of the Gale databases. Then scroll down to the bottom of that page for the Literature Resource database.

- EBSCO Literary Reference Center has full text articles on authors and their works.
  - Username: billerica Password: Indian

Authoritative Websites: Google search: “title of book” critical reception

*Literary Criticism – critical and biographical websites about authors and their works. Search by their last name. Includes some reviews when the book was published.

PAL: Perspectives in American Literature: A Research and Reference Guide – a guide to finding literary criticism and commentary about American authors and poets. There are questions at the end of each article that may help you formulate your thinking.

Poetry Foundation – biographies, poems, and lists of the poet’s works

Search Engine Options:
  - Instagrok This is a visual way to find information on your topics.
  - Google Scholastic Has links with substance without sifting through a lot of garbage.
  - Symbaloo Has links to many different types of search engines.
**Definitions**

**Thesis**
- 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”.

**Keywords**
- are significant words that help you find more information about your topic; alternative words

**Authoritative**
- means highly reliable; has been checked for accuracy

**Database:**
- is a collection of information that has been gathered for a specific purpose. Companies sell databases to organizations and are known as subscription databases.

**Work Cited vs Bibliography:**
- **Work cited** is a list of the resources you quoted or cited in the body of your paper. These are resources you actually used.
- **Bibliography** is a list of everything you looked at even if you didn’t use it.

**One way to determine if a website is authoritative:**

Look on the opening page for words such as “About Us”, “Who are We”, or “Contact Us”.

These words are usually located at the top or at the very bottom of the page. When you link to it, look for a mission statement or a list of the people who are responsible for the information on the web site. **Sites that end in .edu, .gov, or .org** are more likely to be reliable.

- Be careful of **bias** in the .org sites. They often have been created to promote their own point of view.
- **edu pages** can be created by any school age person as well as college professors. Be aware of the age or grade of the creator if it is from a public school.
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.
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, a reader 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 author is unknown:

Use either the complete title in your paper’s text or use a short form of the title in parentheses.

Titles of the book are italicized; titles of articles and other short works are put in quotation marks (“ “). Do not assume a web source has no author. It may appear at the end of the source, in tiny print, or on another page of the site such as the home page.

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.
Lesson Plan

1. Show how to use the literary sources. Including the literary websites
Type in the title of the book instead of the author when looking for criticisms and reviews.

2. Show Infobase e-books – just choose literature. Will see many choices – really good choice. Tons of good stuff in all the books here.


4. Show Search Engine Options and how to do a more efficient Google search.