MLA Formatting for Shakespeare

**Formatting the First Page of Your Paper1**

* Do not make a title page for your paper unless specifically requested.
* In the upper left-hand corner of the first page, list your name, your instructor's name, the course, and the date. Again, be sure to use double-spaced text.
* Double space again and center the title. Do not underline, italicize, or place your title in quotation marks; write the title in Title Case (standard capitalization), not in all capital letters.
* Use quotation marks and/or italics when referring to other works in your title, just as you would in your text: *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* as Morality Play; Human Weariness in "After Apple Picking"
* Double space between the title and the first line of the text.
* Create a header in the upper right-hand corner that includes your last name, followed by a space with a page number; number all pages consecutively with Arabic numerals (1, 2, 3, 4, etc.), one-half inch from the top and flush with the right margin. (Note: Your instructor or other readers may ask that you omit last name/page number header on your first page. Always follow instructor guidelines.)

**How to Cite Shakespeare in Text**

* Type a left bracket (
* Write the name of the play in *italics*.
* Use numbers to denote the act, scene, and line(s). Separate each with a period without a space.
* Use a hyphen to indicate multiple line numbers.
* Type your right bracket )
* Finish off your sentence.
* Note: the citation happens WITHIN the punctuation of your sentence (e.g. the period comes after the citation, not before).
* Examples:
  + (*Macbeth* 3.2.1)
  + (*Macbeth* 1.5.13-7)
  + (*Macbeth* 4.1.110-21)
  + (*Macbeth* 3.2.1-3)

**Works Cited Page Basic rules1**

* Begin your Works Cited page on a separate page at the end of your research paper. It should have the same one-inch margins and last name, page number header as the rest of your paper.
* Label the page Works Cited (do not italicize the words Works Cited or put them in quotation marks) and center the words Works Cited at the top of the page.
* Double space all citations, but do not skip spaces between entries.
* Indent the second and subsequent lines of citations by 0.5 inches to create a hanging indent.
* List page numbers of sources efficiently, when needed. If you refer to a journal article that appeared on pages 225 through 250, list the page numbers on your Works Cited page as 225-50. Note that MLA style uses a hyphen in a span of pages.

**Works Cited Page – Shakespeare**

* Begin your entry with the author’s name. Hint: it’s William Shakespeare. Write it as Last Name, First Name.
* Type a period.
* Type the name of the play in italics.
* Type a period.
* Write Ed. (which means editor) and type the editor’s name(s).
* Type a period.
* Type the location of publication.
* Type a colon (:).
* Type the publisher’s name.
* Type a comma.
* Add the year of publication.
* Type a period.
* Type the format (print, web, etc.). Note: graphic novels are print.
* Example:

Shakespeare, William. *The Tragedy of Othello: The Moor of Venice*. Ed. Tucker Brooke and

Lawrence Mason. New Haven: Yale UP, 1947. Print.