ENGLISH 102

There are several ways to access information in the Coastal Alabama Libraries. If you are in the Bay Minette District, you may come to the library on the Bay Minette campus or to the Learning Resources Centers on the Fairhope and Gulf Shores campuses. Library databases are available on any computer on campus that is connected to the college’s network. You may also access library information via the Coastal Alabama website (www.CoastalAlabama.edu) by clicking on the STUDENTS link, clicking on Library, and then clicking on the Bay Minette District. Additionally, you can access library resources from the Library Services page on Canvas – from campus or wherever you are signed in to Canvas. The Library Services link accesses all library information as well as provides links to Atrium, the Alabama Virtual Library, and our specialized databases.

In order to write about any literary work, you must first understand that work. Be sure to read the work before you begin your research. The Masterplots database provides critical summaries for various works of literature, and these summaries may be beneficial in helping you to better understand the story. Once you have read the Masterplots article, read your work again, and then you can begin your research. Ask for assistance when you need help. Be sure to ask your instructor if you have any questions about your assignment.

Our sample search is The Tell-Tale Heart by Edgar Allan Poe. You will not be allowed to use this story for your research.

MASTERPLOTS – provides brief, critical summaries of various works of literature

Masterplots is generally a good starting point to help you understand the literary work you have chosen to write about. The articles provide a critical summary of various works of literature that you can read and print as needed. Many instructors at Coastal Alabama will allow you to use Masterplots as a source; however, you should ask before using it as a cited source. Additionally, four-year institution instructors will not allow you to use Masterplots as a cited source. Articles contain information, such as the date the story was first published, meanings of the story, and a critical evaluation of the story.

The Library has two Masterplots icons; check the online edition first. To do this, click on the Salem Press Online link and scroll to the bottom of the page where you will find the link to Masterplots, 4th edition. Type the title of your work in the search box (be sure not to type the beginning articles a, an, and the); you will type Tell-Tale Heart and click on Search. Four results are listed; the first one is The Tell-Tale Heart by Edgar Allan Poe. Click on the title link and skim the article. If this article will help you understand the story and help with your research, you can print the article. The MLA citation is available and will print with the article.

If your article is not available in Masterplots Online, you may use the CD version of Masterplots, which is available only in the Bay Minette Campus Library. Double-click on the maroon/gold Masterplots icon. Type the title in the search box; check to see if it is in the alphabetical title listing, and click on the correct title. Do not type the articles a, an, and the at the beginning of the title. You will type Tell-Tale Heart, click on Enter, and the “Masterplots Classics” article comes up. For
citation purposes: the title is at the top of the page, the author is at the bottom right of the page, the publisher is Salem Press, the place of publication is Pasadena, Calif., and the copyright date is 2000.

ATRIUUM – the Library’s online catalog; helps you to find books on your subject

When you check out a book, you will be entered into the Atrium database and will receive a yellow paper with your user name and password to access Atrium to renew your books online, reserve books, and create a book bag, which will allow you to get the citation information for books you place in your online book bag. If you reserve a book, it will be held for you at the Circulation Desk; if you do not pick up the book within five days, it will be re-shelved. Atrium also has a mobile app.

Remember, spelling is very important, as the computer is unforgiving of spelling errors. Usually, the easiest way to find books is by searching for the information you know about the book. If you know the author’s name, type it in the search box last name first. If you do not know the author’s name, you can search by the title, subject, topic, or keyword.

Our sample topic today is The Tell-Tale Heart by Edgar Allan Poe. Double click on the Atrium link and type Poe Edgar Allan in the search box and click on Go. This search results in 110 entries. Generally, in English classes you will need literature criticism information. In the left column you will see a “search within” box in which you can type criticism in the box; then, click on Go. This searches the 110 entries you found for Edgar Allan Poe to see if any contain the word criticism. Now there are 51 entries. Scroll through the entries to see if any will be help with your research – perhaps #3. The word “In” on the top right of the entry means the book is available and should be on the shelf. Click on #3.

Title: Edgar Allan Poe / edited and with an introduction by Harold Bloom.
Series Title: Bloom’s biocritiques
Age Group: General
Material: Book
Call Numbers: PS 2638 .E32 2002

FYI: Books written or edited by Harold Bloom are very good sources for literature criticism.

Write down the complete call number of any book you think might have information you think will be helpful to your research. Note that this Library uses Library of Congress Call Numbers; most U.S. college libraries use this system. The shelves are labeled with the first part of the call number. Go to the shelves and find the book (ASK for assistance when you need it). Look in the back of the book in the INDEX to see whether your topic (or title) is listed. If there is no INDEX, look in the front of the book in the TABLE OF CONTENTS to see if your topic (or title) is listed. If the topic is not listed, look for another book. If the topic is in the book, turn to the page(s) indicated to see if it will be helpful in your research. If so, check the book out (you must have your FSCC Student ID to check out books). You can continue looking through the list for additional titles on your topic, or you may begin a new search.

If you need biographical information on your author, type Poe Edgar Allan in the search box, click on Go, and there are 110 entries. Then, type biography in the “search within” box, click on Go, and there are 16 entries. Click on #1:
WORDS OF WISDOM: Do your research in the Library, so that you do not have to take as many items home with you. The fewer sources you have, the easier it is to narrow down and focus on your topic – **and the easier** it is to actually write your paper.

**eBook Academic Collection** – access over 149,000 academic eBooks

The **eBook Academic Collection** uses the EBSCO search platform, which you may be familiar with from using the Alabama Virtual Library (AVL). Click on the **eBook link**. Click on **Advanced Search**. Type **Tell-Tale Heart** on the first line and **Poe** on the second line. Click on **full-text**, and then click on **Search**. There is one entry, and it appears to be the work itself, not criticism. Click on **Clear** to begin a new search. Type **Poe Edgar Allan** on the first line and **Criticism** on the second line; click on **full-text**, and click on **Search**; there are **48 entries**. **HINT:** When you have a choice between PDF and EPUB full-text, choose EPUB because it is more similar to HTML and is easier to navigate and print. Look at #4:


Click on the **Table of Contents** link; then, scroll down and click on the **Index** link. Scroll through the **Index**. This listing has an Appendix 2: Paranoid Schizophrenia in "The Tell-Tale Heart" that you can click on and read through. You could also scroll through the **Index** until you find your title. Once you find the listing for **"The Tell-Tale Heart" (Poe)**, you can type the page number in the **< >** at the bottom of the page and press **Enter** to go to that page and skim the information provided. Citation links are available for the book at the top of the page. You can copy/paste the citation into your Works Cited listing and then add the page numbers of the pages you actually used as a reference source to the citation.

**Citation information is the ONLY thing you should ever copy/paste into your paper.**

**ALABAMA VIRTUAL LIBRARY (AVL) - academic articles for your research**

Articles have the **most current** information available for research. Articles found within the library databases, such as the AVL, will provide good, scholarly research from credible and valid sources that can be easily cited. Internet search engines, such as Google, MSN, Yahoo, Ask.com, are generally NOT valid for college-level research and certainly will not provide MLA citation information. Also, Wikipedia is generally not a credible source for college research papers. As a librarian if you need assistance with research; ask your instructor if you have questions about the assignment.

The AVL is made up of many online databases that can help you with your academic research needs. If the AVL recognizes your Internet IP address as being in Alabama (this will be indicated by a **green check mark on the upper right side** of the screen), you can search the AVL from home without an
AVL card. If your IP address is not recognized as being in Alabama or if you are a Coastal Alabama student who lives in another state, you will need an AVL card with user name and password to access the AVL. You may obtain an AVL card at the Library’s Circulation Desk by presenting your current Student ID. The AVL card is free and is valid for three years. Check for AVL availability at home before asking for an AVL card.

There are several databases within the AVL that can help you with this assignment. Whichever databases you select, be sure to choose “full text.” You can also limit your searches to “academic journals” on some of the databases or to “peer-reviewed” or “scholarly articles” on others.

Double click on the Alabama Virtual Library icon. Click on Student Resources and then click on College & University. A listing of databases will come up; hold the cursor on the yellow block beside the name of the database to see a listing of the type of information available in that database. Scroll down and click on Gale Literary Sources; then, click on Advanced. In the search box beside Name of work, type Tell-Tale Heart, and in the search box beside Person by or about, type Poe. Click on documents with full-text; scroll down to Content Type, click on the down arrow, and click only on Literature Criticism. Click on Search. There are 31 articles under Literary Criticism; the articles are not numbered. The citations do not always give the exact length of the article, so sometimes you will have to look at the article to determine its length (print preview helps). Look at the third citation. Click on the title to read the article; the MLA citation is at the end of the article.

*Please note: the Library allows you to print articles that are 5 pages in length or shorter. If the article is longer than five pages, but it fits your research purposes, you could select and print only the actual article or parts of the article you need. You would not need to print such items as Works Cited, Notes, and Selected Bibliography.

Click on Search Results at the top left to review the other articles found in this search. You may change the search keywords as needed to find additional information for your research.

**Literary Reference Center** – provides additional academic articles on literary criticism

Click on the Literary Reference Center link and then click on Advanced Search. In the first search box, type Tell-Tale Heart and type Poe in the second search box. Click on Search. There are 29 articles. Under Source Types in the left margin, click on Literary Criticism, and the search is automatically updated to 14 entries. Be sure not to choose an article you already have as a source! Look at #5. Hold the cursor over the icon at the end of the title and you will be able to read the abstract (summary) of the article. If you can use this article for your research purposes, click on the title for more information or on the full-text link.


This article is 4 pages long – and is available in both HTML and PDF full-text. When given a choice, always choose HTML because those articles are easier to read and print, and HTML allows you to print your citation and article at the same time. PDF articles will usually be one page shorter than listed
because the last page is copyright information. Once you are on the article or the citation page, you can find the MLA citation by clicking on Cite in the right margin (click on print in the right margin to ensure the citation prints). Sometimes you must scroll back to the top of the page to see the print and cite icons on the right side. You can go back to the article listing to find other academic articles for your research.

Remember: the Library’s general rule for printing is to print articles 5 pages or less – unless you wish to pay for additional pages (15 cents/page). If you find an article that is too long to print, you can skim the article to see if you can use it for your research and then print the part(s) of the article by selecting and printing only the text you need. Ask a librarian when you need assistance.

**GALE LITERARY INDEX** – provides additional literary criticism articles

Gale/Cengage is a major publisher of literary criticism works. The Meadows Library has a large collection of print sources from Gale/Cengage; these books are shelved in the Reference section. The critical articles contained in these books are scholarly and are very helpful for you in your research endeavors – especially when you cannot find articles on your topic in the online sources.

Double click on the **Gale Literary Index** icon, and then single click on **Title Search**. Type the exact title of the work you are researching, including the initial articles a, an, and the. Type **The Tell-Tale Heart** in the search box, click on **Match words exactly as entered**, and click on **Search**. Two articles are available; you will select **The Tell-Tale Heart; Edgar Allan Poe**.

**Gale series that include a discussion of this work:**
- Beacham’s Encyclopedia of Popular Fiction: Analyses, volume(s) 7:4132-35
- Beacham’s Guide to Literature for Young Adults, volume(s) 3: 2599-2604
- Short Stories for Students, volume(s) 4:343-59
- World Literature Criticism, volume(s) 4:2760-61

This series of citations to the Gale books contain literary criticism on **The Tell-Tale Heart** by **Edgar Allan Poe**. The citations lead you to critical articles in the Gale/Cengage publications which are shelved in the reference (REF) area of the Library. When you cite these articles, you will need the citation information for both the book and the article. The handout on **Literary Criticism Sources** will assist you in finding these books; titles and call numbers for the books owned by the Meadows Library are provided on the handout (next page of this guide). Note: You can also find a link to this database on the AVL on the Gale Literary Sources page.

**PLAGIARISM**

“MLA defines plagiarism as taking another person's language or thoughts and putting them in your own paper without acknowledging they came from another source. Even if you summarize the ideas from elsewhere or put the ideas in your own words, you still need to indicate that you were not the original creator of the concepts. You must enclose information taken verbatim in quotation marks or in block format to indicate that it is a direct quote. Omission of such documentation fits MLA's definition of plagiarism, regardless of your intention.”

Online Sources
Atrium – This is the Library’s online catalog. Generally, the best way to search is to search for the author’s name (last name first) and criticism. The Meadows Library uses Library of Congress call numbers; ask for assistance as necessary.

Alabama Virtual Library (AVL) – (http://www.avl.lib.al.us) – This is a set of academic databases that will help in your research. Click on Student Resources and College & University to view the database listing. Please the cursor on the yellow box beside the database title to determine the type of information the database contains.

eBook Academic Collection – This eBook collection accesses over 149,000 eBooks that are helpful with academic research. Citation links are available.

Gale Literary Index – (http://www.galenet.com/servlet/LitIndex) – This database provides citations to various literary criticism articles, many of which you can find in the Library’s reference works. (see listing below)

Gale Literary Sources (AVL) and Literary Reference Center – These two academic databases contain scholarly articles from literature criticism sources. Gale Literary Sources is available on the AVL; both are available on the Library Services course on Canvas.

Masterplots Online (Salem Press) and Masterplots – These databases contain critical summaries of literary works that may help you to understand literary works that are assigned in class or you choose to research. This is a good starting point for literary research.

Print sources
Some reference sources will lead you to literary criticism information in reference books; these books cannot be checked out. You will have to take notes or photocopy the information you need for your research. A partial list of the most popular Gale/Cengage print sources is listed below.

Black Literature Criticism: ...over the Past 200 Years
REF PS 153 .N5 B556 1992

Black Literature Criticism: ...Since 1950
REF PS 153 .N5 B557 2008

Classical and Medieval Literature Criticism
REF PA 3003 .C63 1988 v.1

Critical Survey of Poetry
REF PN 1111 .C7 1992

Critical Survey of Short Fiction
REF PN 3321 .C7 2001

Drama Criticism
REF PN 1601 .D59

19th Century Literature Criticism
REF PN 761 .N56

20th Century Literature Criticism
REF PN 771 .G27

Contemporary Literary Criticism
REF PN 771 .C59

Poetry Criticism
REF PN 1021 .P6

Shakespearean Criticism
REF PR 2965 .S43 1984

Short Stories for Students
REF PN 3335 .S56 1997

Short Story Criticism
REF PN 3491 .S56 1988

World Literature Criticism
REF PN 523 .W67 1992

You may look for additional reference and non-reference books on Atrium. Ask a librarian if you need assistance.

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