How to Cite Shakespeare

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| ***Italicize* the title of plays** This is important so that the reader can tell the character and the play apart (Macbeth if filled with vaulting ambition – *Macbeth* is knows for examples of ambition) | *Romeo & Juliet*  *Macbeth*  *Taming of the Shrew* |
| **Use present tense (aka historical present)** | Use present tense verbs to write about the play: Hamlet stabs Polonius (vs. stabbed) |
| **Use block quote for any more than four lines of the play** | Richard III tells his troops,  Remember whom you are to cope withal:  A sort of vagabonds, rascals, and runaways,  A scum of Britains and base lackey peasants,  Whom their o'ercloyed country vomits forth  To desperate adventures and assur'd destruction.  (5.3.315-19)   * Tab twice to indent block quote * Punctuation goes before in-text citation (after the last word that you quote) * Line numbers under 100 (45-47) * Line numbers over 100 (138-42) |
| **Indicate line breaks when quoting under four lines** | Othello recalls, "Upon this hint I spake: / She lov'd me for the dangers I had pass'd, / And I lov'd her that she did pity them" (1.3.166-68).  Note the withholding of final punctuation in this case until after the parenthetical citation.  The slash marks **indicate line breaks** in the verse. |
| **Secondary research/sources** | When writing about what others have written on Shakespeare, use the (Author page).  For example, the songs at the end of *Love's Labour's Lost* can be seen as thematically integral to the play (Goddard 54). |
| **Works Cited page** | * The final page of your paper * Lists full bibliographic details of your sources in alphabetical order |

Works Cited

Shakespeare, William*. Romeo and Juliet*. Edited by Roma Gill et al., Woodbury, NY, Oxford Up, 2008.