

How to Cite Poems using APA Formatting

Fire and Ice

Some say the world will end in fire,
Some say in ice.
From what I've tasted of desire
I hold with those who favor fire.
But if it had to perish twice,
I think I know enough of hate
To say that for destruction ice
Is also great
And would suffice.

Robert Frost

From *The Bedford Anthology of American Literature, Volume Two: 1865 to the Present – 2nd Edition*, 2013, St. Martin's Press, New York, NY, page 1700, by Susan Belasco & Linck Johnson

How to do an In-text Citation:

Remember, in an essay, you need to give credit to whom/where you retrieved your information from. Include an in-text citation when you refer to, summarize, paraphrase, or quote from another source. For every in-text citation, there needs to be a corresponding entry in your reference list.

The citation includes the author's last name, followed by the publication year, and page number.

Ex. (Frost, 2013, p. 1700)

How to Integrate Lines of Poetry:

1 Line of Poetry:

The line is included within double quotation marks. Any punctuation from the original source is included inside the quotes. In-text citation comes at the end.

Ex. It can be suggested that the line "Some say the world will end in fire," refers to jealousy (Frost, 2013, p. 1700).

2 Lines of Poetry:

They are placed within the text. The lines are inside quotation marks, including any original punctuation. A slash mark ("/") is used to indicate where the two lines are separated. In-text citation comes at the end.

Ex. Many argue that, "Some say the world will end in fire,/ Some say in ice" is a discussion about anger and indifference, where "fire" refers to anger, and "ice" refers to indifference (Frost, 2013, p. 1700).

3 or More Lines:

Format using block quote. No quotation marks are used. The lines of poetry should be written exactly as they are in the poem, including punctuation. The first line is indented 2.5 cm from the left margin, which is the same as for a new paragraph. This becomes the new margin, and each subsequent line is indented 2.5 cm inch from this. The entire section is double-spaced. In-text citation comes after the final punctuation.

Ex. The poet makes some inferences about human nature when he says:

I think I know enough of hate

To say that for destruction ice

Is also great

And would suffice. (Frost, 2013, p. 1700)

References Page:

All poems that are quoted in your essay must also be cited on the reference page at the end.

Poems in Anthologies:

Poems are often found in anthologies, so the reference begins with the poet's last name, a comma, the poet's initial and a period. The publication date is inside parentheses, followed by a period. Next is the title of the poem in sentence case, a period, "In", the editor's initial and last name, "(Ed.)", a comma and the italicized title of the book in sentence case. Then, in parentheses, are "p." for page and the page number. There's a period, the publication location, a colon and the publisher, followed by a period.

Frost, R. (2013). Fire and Ice. In S. Belasco & L. Johnson (Eds.), *The Bedford Anthology of American Literature, Volume Two: 1865 to the Present – 2nd Edition* (p. 1700). New York, NY: St. Martin's Press.

Poems from Websites:

If you chose a poem from an online source, include the author's name, editor if available, original publication year in parentheses, name of the poem, name of the site the poem is on in italics, date the poem was retrieved and the Web address from which it was retrieved. A citation from poet William Blake's work "The Tyger" would read:

Blake, William (1794). The Tyger. *The Poetry Foundation*. Retrieved on 04 June 2013 from <http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poem/172943>

In this example, no editor name was available, so you would put "The Poetry Foundation" in italics. In the case that the poem has an unknown author, use the title of the poem for in-text citations and on your References page.