

# HOW TO GET AWAY WITH YOUR THESIS?

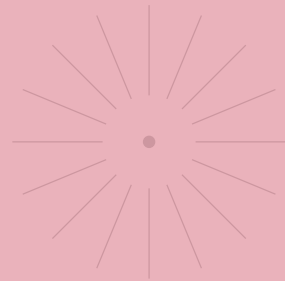
A Survival Guide for Undergraduates

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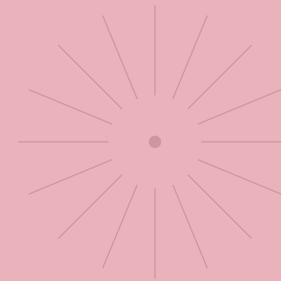
# WHAT IS AN UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

It is a short piece of work, of roughly 12,000 words (footnotes and bibliography included), which presents the results of your research. The research can concern any subject studied during your undergraduate degree in Italian Medieval and Renaissance Studies. Your final work need not be original, or refute all established criticism, or establish a new path in the reading of a text. It must, however, show that you can organize your research professionally; study the critical and scholarly sources at your disposal; write out your conclusions in clear, fluent, comprehensible language, writing autonomously and not incurring in plagiarism (i.e., the silent copying of other people's work).

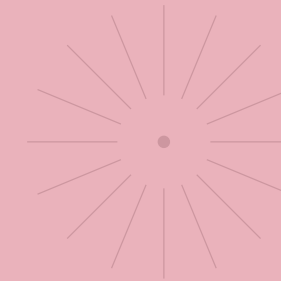
# CHOOSE YOUR TOPIC... AND YOUR SUPERVISOR!



~~too generic~~



~~too vast~~



~~too obvious~~

# YOU NEED A THESIS

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- A coherent and scholarly argument
- A clear use of close reading to contend for your thesis
- A sense of how your ideas fit into recent scholarship
- A clear pay-off to your argument
- A critical (and fair) use of secondary sources, to back up your points
- A smooth, clear style

# BUILDING YOUR BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- [Galileo Discovery](#)
- [OPAC SBN](#)
- [Google Books](#)
- [The Internet Archive](#)
- [Hathitrust](#)
- [Academia.edu](#)

# PREPARING YOUR BIBLIOGRAPHY

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## MLA Book

Author  
↓  
Socarides, Alexandra. *Dickinson Unbound: Paper, Process, Poetics*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2012. Print.  
↑  
Year of Publication

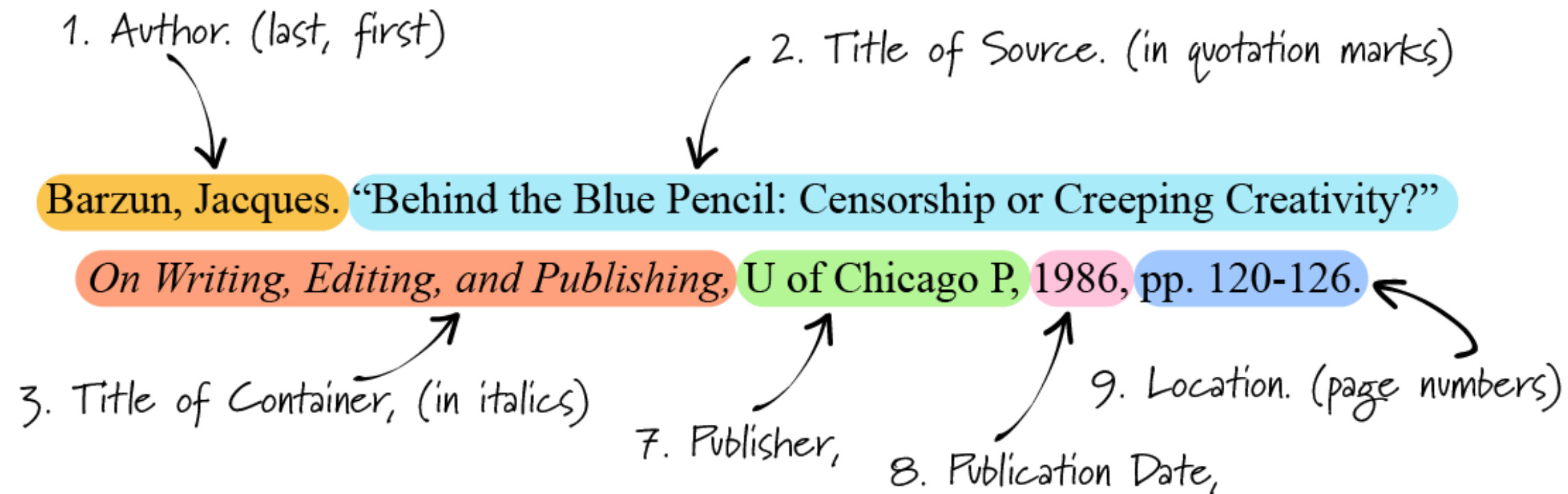
↑  
Place of Publication

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Publisher

Title  
↓

# PREPARING YOUR BIBLIOGRAPHY

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# PREPARING YOUR BIBLIOGRAPHY

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## MLA Journal

Author

"Article Title"

Journal Title

Hughes, Glenn. "Love, Terror, and Transcendence in Emily Dickinson's Poetry." *Renascence: Essays On Values In Literature* 66.4 (2014): 283-304. MLA International Bibliography. Web. 22 May 2015.

Database



# PREPARING YOUR BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Author's first name.

"Title of Article: Subtitle of Article."

Alter, Charlotte.

"Gender Politics at the Democratic Debate Show How

Hard it is to Fight Like a Girl." *Time*, 21, Nov. 2019,

[time.com/5735288/female-candidates-democratic-debate](https://time.com/5735288/female-candidates-democratic-debate).

URL.

Title of magazine,

Day, Month abbreviation. Year,

# CITING SOURCES IN YOUR THESIS

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- paraphrasing (rewording an idea in your own words) = footnotes
- direct quotation (reproducing the author's exact words) = short quotations ("...") – long quotations (block quotations)

