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## Are titles of poems italicized

One of the problems when we learn English online is the confusion that surrounds the type of punctuation and formatting used when referring to written works such as books, articles, and poems. The same questions also arise when referring to movie, song, and television show titles.It should be pointed out that there are no hard and fast grammar rules for formatting or punctuating these items; they are a matter of style. Technically a writer can use any formatting they wish, but adhering to a particular style helps ensure readers fully understand what the writer intended.Some of the confusion arises due to the fact that different publications, institutions, and schools often use different style guides. The major style guides, Chicago Manual of Style, the AMA Manual of Style, and the AP Style Guide generally follow the same rules, but minor variations occur. The variations and idiosyncrasies occur more often in the lesser used or more specialized style guides.Another source of confusion to some writers derives from their reading experience. Thousands of articles, papers, and publications exist where underlining is used to emphasize text and to indicate book titles and other works. While there is nothing inherently incorrect with using underlines in a paper or article, underlining is considered an obsolete method of formatting and should generally be avoided.This change in formatting is another example of how the web, the rise of word processors, and other technological advances have changed styles and standards for both formal and informal writings.In this article we will give you the formatting and punctuation guidelines for a number of specific types of works.Do You Italicize Book Titles?Books are considered as complete bodies of work. When writing about a book the title is italicized. It should be noted that italics is used only when the title is used in a text, meaning surrounded by other words. The italics are used to make the title stand apart from the other text.Italics are not used for title pages and other places where the title stands alone.The book title rule basically applies to any big or standalone work, such as a newspaper or magazine. Websites are typically considered a standalone work and the web address is italicized.Do You Italicize Movie Titles?Movies are considered to be large standalone pieces. They are therefore subject to the same rules as book titles and are italicized when referred to in an article.Do You Italicize TV Shows?Television shows present an interesting set of rules. Whether to italicize depends on whether you are referring to the series or an episode.The series title is italicized; the episode is in quotation marks.Here’s an example: My favourite Big Bang Theory episode is “The Proton Regeneration”.Do You Italicize Article Titles?Article titles are treated much like an episode of a television show. When discussing the article it is placed in quotation marks. The title of the publication, or website, where the article is found is written in italics.Do You Italicize Song Titles?Song titles are treated like articles and television shows. In most cases the song titles are placed in quotation marks. The album the song comes from is placed in italics.Do You Italicize Poem Titles?The titles of poems are generally placed in quotation marks. However, like many aspects of written English there are some exceptions. If you are referring to an epic poem, such as The Iliad, Beowulf, or Paradise Lost, the title is italicized.Do You Italicize Company Names?Company names are treated the same as an individual’s name and are not italicized nor placed in quotation marks. Company names are always capitalized.Underlining TitlesOften writers will ask if you underline books titles, underline movie titles, underline show titles, underline article titles, or underline song titles.In general, the answer to this is always “no.” There is nothing wrong with using underlines, but this as we mentioned earlier this is considered an obsolete, outdated formatting tool and should be avoided.Using underlines in academic papers often counts against the writer’s overall grade since this formatting convention is no longer in the style guide.General GuidelinesThere is little doubt that if you send just a small amount of time looking at various publications you will soon find articles that treat titles of books, movies, songs and other works differently. It is important to note that those writers are not making grammar mistakes but are adhering to a particular style.If you are in doubt about how to handle titles of works it is always a good idea to ask what style is used.In all honesty, the main area where differences in formatting can create a problem is in academic work. Fortunately, most colleges and universities are very good at explaining the style they want students to follow.In general, here are the main rules for formatting and underlining: – Large, complete, standalone works such as books, movies, publications, websites, epic poems, operas, and television shows are italicized. – Shorter works such as specific episodes of a television series, song titles, poems, short stories, magazine articles, and newspaper articles are surrounded by quotation marks.While you will still occasionally see book, movie, newspaper and television shows underlined, this is considered an obsolete formatting option and should generally be avoided.Article related: The Oxford Comma There are rules in writing, in general, which every author must familiarise themselves with. You may have to italicize movie titles or use other means to emphasize a title. Anyone who comes across the italicized words would know it’s a title. That’s also the essence of italicizing. Now, here’s the question that has been generating some heated debates among writers Do you italicize poem titles? Yes, you can write the poem’s title in italics. You may also need to underline your title instead of italics. Italics are used for long poems. And it’s easier to italicize words when writing on a computer. If you’re writing on paper or marker board, don’t italicize. Underline the title instead. Is underlining a poem title similar to italicizing it? Yes, it is. The aim of using both is to make them different from the other words. An example of a single but long poem whose title needs to be italicized is The Odyssey. Other examples include The Iliad or The Aeneid. The rule to determine if you should italicize the poem title is the poem’s length is subjective. If the poem is book-length, you can italicize it. Use quotation marks on the poem’s title if it’s up to book-length. So, that’s the answer. However, we have more in store for you on this topic. Continue reading to find out. When Not To Use Italics For Poem Titles We have shed light on this topic before, but there’s nothing wrong with revisiting it. If the poem is a short one, you do not italicize the title. Use quotation marks instead. As a general rule, quotation marks are ideals for shorter write-ups. It’s used for book chapters, short poems, short stories, articles, and essays. Another reason you can’t use quotation marks is when the poems are not stand-alone. Short poems usually come in a body of work or collection. They come as an anthology or collection of poems. The same applies to articles that get published in journals. You won’t find chapters of a published work as a stand-alone. Instead, you publish several chapters of a book as a single document. Why Do You Need To Italicize Poem Titles? Long before now, there was little, or no buzz about formatting typed documents. Nowadays, we use italics, quotation marks, bold text, and underlining to emphasize text. The essence of italicizing poem titles is to make them stand out from other texts. With italics, the text becomes different from other surrounding words. Hence, it draws the reader’s attention to the text italicized. However, italics do not have a very glaring effect. It is subtle compared to using bold text or an underline to emphasize certain words. And because of these specific rules regarding their use, italics still come in handy for writers. The Use Of Underline In Place Of Italics For Writing Poem Titles Although underlining in place of italics is acceptable for poem titles, it is somewhat outdated. The practice was common when typewriters and handwritten documents were trending. Then, typewriters didn’t have the option to italicize. Also, it would not be easy to point out an italicized text in a handwritten document. It is challenging to do so, as some persons’ handwriting appears slanted. With which handwriting, how then can one differentiate the actual italicized text from the unitalicized text? With the use of computers and word processors, it is now easier to italicize. All you have to do is highlight the text you want to italicize and click on the Italic icon in Microsoft Word. Alternately, you hold down the Ctrl key and press the letter “I” on the keyboard, and the highlighted text will italicize. Do You Italicize Poem Titles In APA? APA is a documentation style introduced by the American Psychological Association. The referencing style is common to sociology, psychology, philosophy, anthropology, education, etc. With the APA referencing style, there is the in-text citation and the one you find on your document’s reference page. Different rules apply to each of them. Another difference is that in-text citation focuses on one work at a time as you write along. It is the reference page that lists out all works you consulted in your work. If you are using APA style, in-text citation requires that you italicize a stand-alone work title. So, you have to italicize the title of a stand-alone poem or collection of poems. When citing a poem in-text, the APA format is to write in a round bracket the author’s name, year of publication, followed by the page. An example would be (John, 1995, p.43) The rule for an in-text citation is slightly different for the reference page. If you are referencing a poem’s title on the reference page, you would also italicize a long or stand-alone poem. The difference lies with shorter poems that are a part of a complete work. In this case, you would have to write the title of the poem as it is. That it is, it should be in its original form without quotation marks and italics. Do You Italicize Poem Titles In MLA? MLA is another citation style introduced by the Modern Language Association. It is a referencing style that is common to disciplines like literature and the humanities. The style, like the APA, also has an in-text citation. At the end of the document, there’s a comprehensive list of all the work cited. For in-text citation using this style, you italicize the poem’s title where it is a long poem or collection of poems. When the poem is a short poem and part of a complete work, you use quotation marks. When citing a long piece of writing, write the author’s name, starting with the last name and the first name. After which, you write the poem title in italics, the city in which it was published, the publisher’s name, and the year published. When citing a short poem that is a part of a collection or anthology, you also begin with the author’s last and first name. The next thing would be to write the short poem’s title in quotation marks, followed by the collection or anthology title in italics. After which, you add the editor, the city in which it was published, the publisher’s name, and the year published. Do You Italicize A Poem Title In Chicago Style? The Chicago style is a referencing style attributed to the University of Chicago Press. It counts as one of the common referencing styles in the United States. This style is also peculiar to disciplines such as social sciences, business, fine arts, history. The Chicago style does not make any difference when you cite it in the write-up’s body. Whether it is a book, article, collection of poems, or short poem, the citation follows the same process. An easy way to cite in the body of the writing piece via this style is to provide the author’s name and publication year in round paragraphs. The distinction in citing different works is only applicable in the Reference List, which comes at the end of the document. In the Reference List, you have to provide the full details of the works cited. So, this is where you would have to provide the poem title. In the Reference List, the title of books and long works are in italics. So, if the poem is a collection of poems or a single poem long enough to be a stand-alone poem, it must be in italics. If it is a short poem and part of a collection, the title must be in quotation marks. Poem Titles: What You Need To Know The title of a poem is usually the first thing that the reader sees. Authors put the title on their book’s front cover, whether it is a long or stand-alone poem. For shorter poems, you will find them at the top. Since it is the first thing a reader will see, the writer also spends considerable time coming up with an excellent title for the poem. The regular practice is to write the first letters of the words in the title in capital letters. It is only articles within the title that would not appear in capital letters. In an actual sense, writing the poem’s title is usually more challenging than writing the poem itself. The writer would want to come up with a title that captures the reader’s interest. From the title, a reader should want to read the poem. A poor title could damage the acceptability of the poem, even when the content is excellent. Conclusion Irrespective of the style you are using in your writing, italics have rules which you must strictly follow. Firstly, italicize long pieces of writing and put short poems in quotation marks. Apart from these differences, the rule is the same across all styles. When writing titles, the whole title should be in italics and the parts in quotation marks. For example, a book of poems would be in italics, but a poem from the book would be in quotation marks; a television show would be in italics, but the episode would use quotation marks, etc. Titles of plays are italicized. Titles of paintings, drawings, statues, etc. are italicized, and so are titles of exhibitions. Titles of collections are neither italicized nor put in quotes. Works online are analogous to print publications, even if they don’t appear in print. That is, periodicals or complete works are italicized; articles or sections of works are roman and, where appropriate, enclosed in quotation marks. (See Chicago Manual, “Names and Terms” chapter, for details.) In running text, a “the” preceding a name, even when part of the official title of an institution, company, periodical, group, etc., is lowercased. “The Raven” from the Poe Collection Rosanne episode “Back Off Buddy, That’s My Husband” A story in the New York Times (“the” is lowercase and roman) “Babylon Revisited” is the first work in Babylon Revisited and Other Stories Richard Serra’s print Brownie McGhee is part of Richard Serra at Colby College, the Paul J. Schupf Collection. The exhibition Rediscoveries 2: New Perspectives included works from the Lunder Collection.

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