Citing Primary Sources from the Library of Congress

The purpose of citing a primary source is to acknowledge the source of information and give as much detail as possible to find that primary source at a later date. The Library of Congress uses a variety of ways to cite primary source material.

Sometimes a <u>credit line</u> is available.

First:
- Find the bibliographic page that contains your primary source
- Look under the Notes area
- Look for the words <u>Cite as:</u>
- Copy the credit line
- Paste it into your document

Second:
- Find the bibliographic page that contains your primary source
- Look at the line above the thumbnail of your primary source
- Click on <u>"Rights and Reproductions"</u>
- Scroll down to CREDIT LINE:
- Copy the credit line
- Paste it into your document (note: change the sample reproduction number or digital ID to the one specific to your primary source)

Third:
- Find the bibliographic page that contains your primary source
- Click on the name of the collection at the top of the bibliographic page
- Scroll to the bottom of the Collection page
- Click on the Copyright and Other Restrictions link
- Copy the credit line
- Paste it into your document (note: change the sample reproduction number or digital ID to the one specific to your primary source)

If credit line is not available:
- Follow the directions for citing sources using the MLA style
- Go to: http://www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/mla.html
- Scroll to the type of primary source you are using
- Identify the information needed (ex. Author, title, date, etc.)
- Copy the example line into your document
- Fill in the information from the bibliographic page