MLA In-text Citation Example

This paragraph is from page 14 of Tamara L. Roleff’s book, Black Magic and Witches: Fact or Fiction?

“Because of the danger witches presented to Christianity, church officials believed it was necessary to find and execute all witches. Toward that end, witch-hunters continually devised new methods for determining if the accused was indeed a witch. One practice was known as “witch swimming.” The accused witch was bound – right hand to left foot and left hand to right foot – and thrown into a lake or river. If the accused floated (which often happened because of the trapped air in the victim’s layers of clothing), she was a witch, because, as King James I of England rationalized, the water would not accept those who had “shaken off them the sacred waters of baptism.” If the accused sank, then, she was innocent and was entitled to a Christian burial. Occasionally, the accused witch’s family would be permitted to tie a rope around her waist so that, if she sank, they could drag her out, preferably before she drowned.”

Here are some different ways that you can refer back to the paragraph above:

#1

In her book, Black Magic and Witches: Fact or Fiction?, Tamara L. Roleff writes, “because of the danger witches presented to Christianity, church officials believed it was necessary to find and execute all witches” (14).

(If the author and title of the book is mentioned in your sentence, you must only cite the page number in parenthesis at the end.) #2

“Occasionally,” writes Roleff, “the accused witch’s family would be permitted to tie a rope around her waist so that, if she sank, they could drag her out, preferably before she drowned” (14).

(If the author’s name is mentioned in your sentence, you must only cite the page number in parenthesis at the end.) #3

Roleff mentions that witch-hunters were always trying to think of new ways to figure out if the people accused of being witches were in fact worthy of being tried (14).

(If the author’s name is mentioned in your sentence, you must only cite the page number in parenthesis at the end.) #4

One method that church officials would use to help them determine who was a witch was a practice called “witch swimming,” which involved binding the accused person’s hands and feet, and toss them into a body of water to see if they would sink or swim (Roleff 14).

(If you do not mention the book title or author in your sentence, you must the author’s last name and the page number in parenthesis at the end.)