

University of Houston Clear Lake

WRITING CENTER

THE BLUEBOOK: A UNIFORM SYSTEM OF CITATION

The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation is most often used in legal studies, criminology, and legal practice.

If a class requires you to use *The Bluebook*, you will need to use the most recent publication, ***The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation, 21st edition***. The 20th edition of *The Bluebook* can be found in the university's writing center, university libraries, and public libraries. Changes between the 20th and 21st edition can be found here: <https://www.legalbluebook.com/preface-to-the-twenty-first-edition>

This handout briefly lists some of the basic citation rules of *The Bluebook*. **The official website also has a quick citation guide here:** <https://www.legalbluebook.com/bluebook/v21/quick-style-guide>

It is important to note that *The Bluebook*

- Utilizes two types of citation systems. The “Blue Pages” of *The Bluebook* (pp. 3–56) discuss the proper citation format for documents used while practicing law (court documents and legal memoranda). **The “White Pages” of *The Bluebook* illustrate the proper way to cite in academic and scholarly writing.**
- Serves exclusively as an in-text citation system, with few exceptions.
- Requires the use of footnotes containing citations when writing academic or scholarly works.¹
- Contains tables (T1–T16) located near the back of the book that list court information, statutory information, and abbreviations that will be used throughout your citations.

This tip-sheet will focus on the “White Pages” of *The Bluebook*.

Helpful notes that refer to tables in *The Bluebook* are included, for example: (consult T1).

Please note that, if you are writing a document to be submitted to the court or a legal memorandum, the rules explained below will not apply and you will need to use the “Blue Pages”.

¹ This is an example of a footnote. Your citation should go here. See p. 57 of the *Bluebook* for more information.

Cases: Rule 10

(pp. 94–115)

- Name of the case (consult T6): Jackson v. Metro. Edison Co.
- Volume number of the reporter in which the case appears: 348
- Abbreviated name of the reporter (consult T1): F. Supp.
- First page on which the case appears: 954
- Page(s) to which you wish to cite: 956–58
- Parenthetical containing deciding court information (unless the information is clear from the reporter name) and year in which the case was published (consult T1): (M.D. Pa. 1972)

Citation: Jackson v. Metro. Edison Co., 348 F. Supp. 954, 956-58 (M.D. Pa. 1972).

Constitutions: Rule 11

(p. 118)

- U.S. or abbreviated name of the state (consult T10): N.M.
- Const.
- Cite to specific subdivisions
- No parenthetical needed for provisions currently in force (see pp. 118–119 for provisions that have been amended or are otherwise no longer in effect)

Citation: N.M. Const. art. IV, § 7.

Statutes: Rule 12

(pp. 120–133)

- Title number: 28
- Abbreviated name of the code (consult T1): U.S.C.
- Section symbol: §
- Section number(s): 1291
- Parenthetical containing publisher (if required) and date information (consult T1): (2006)

Citation: 28 U.S.C. § 1291 (2006).

Books: Rule 15

(pp. 149–158)

- Full name of the author(s), in big and small capitals: FRANCIS A. CAREY
- Name of the work, in big and small capitals: ORGANIC CHEMISTRY
- Page(s) to which you wish to cite: 310
- Parenthetical with editor(s) name(s), edition/publisher, and year of publication: (Kent A. Peterson et al. eds., 6th ed. 2006).

Citation: FRANCIS A. CAREY, ORGANIC CHEMISTRY 310 (Kent A. Peterson et al. eds., 6th ed. 2006).

Citation: CHARLES DICKENS, BLEAK HOUSE 49–55 (Norman Page ed., Penguin Books 1971) (1835).

Periodical Materials: Rule 16

(pp. 159–171)

For journal articles:

- Full name of the author(s): David Rudovsky
- Title of the article, in italics: *Police Abuse: Can the Violence be Contained?*
- Journal volume number: 27
- Abbreviated name of the journal, in big and small capitals: HARV. C.R.-C.L. L. REV.
- Page on which the article begins: 465
- Page(s) to which you wish to cite: 500
- Parenthetical with date of publication: (1992).

Citation: David Rudovsky, *Police Abuse: Can the Violence Be Contained?*, 27 HARV. C.R.-C.L. L. REV. 465, 500 (1992).

For magazine articles:

- Full name of the author(s): Robert J. Samuelson
- Title of the article, in italics: *A Slow Fix for the Banks*
- Name of the magazine, in big and small capitals: NEWSWEEK
- Cover date of the issue with abbreviated month (consult T12): Feb. 18, 1991
- at
- First page of the article: 55

Citation: Robert J. Samuelson, *A Slow Fix for the Banks*, NEWSWEEK, Feb. 18, 1991, at 55.

For newspaper articles with an author:

- Full name of the author(s): Seth Mydans
- Headline, in italics: *Los Angeles Police Chief Removed for 60 Days in Inquiry on Beating*
- Abbreviated name of the newspaper, in big and small capitals: N.Y. TIMES
- Date of article with abbreviated month (consult T12): Apr. 5, 1991
- at
- Page on which the article appears: A1

Citation: Seth Mydans, *Los Angeles Police Chief Removed for 60 Days in Inquiry on Beating*, N.Y. TIMES, Apr. 5, 1991, at A1.

The Internet: Rule 18.2

- Full name of the author(s): Eric Posner
- Title of the webpage, in italics: *More on Section 7 of the Torture Convention*
- Title of the main website, in big and small capitals: VOLOKH CONSPIRACY
- Parenthetical containing the date and time accessed: (Jan. 29, 2009, 10:04 AM)
- URL: <http://www.volokh.com/posts/1233241458.shtml>

Citation: Eric Posner, *More on Section 7 of the Torture Convention*, VOLOKH CONSPIRACY (Jan. 29, 2009, 10:04 AM), <http://www.volokh.com/posts/1233241458.shtml>.