

WRITING CENTER

THE BLUEBOOK: A UNIFORM SYSTEM OF CITATION

While writing for college-level courses, it is essential that students cite and credit their sources in order to maintain a professional voice throughout their writing. *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* is most often used in legal studies, criminology, and legal practice.

Using any system of citation can be tricky. 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*, 19th edition. *The Bluebook* can be found in the university's writing center, university libraries, public libraries, and most bookstores.

This handout briefly lists some of the basic citation rules of *The Bluebook*. In no way does this handout encapsulate the entirety of *The Bluebook*, so please refer to the text for more information.

It is important to note that *The Bluebook*

Utilizes two types of citation systems. The “Blue Pages” of *The Bluebook* (pp. 3-51) 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. When utilizing the “Blue Pages,” citations will appear in text, either in citation sentences or clauses. See Rule B2 for more information.

Requires the use of footnotes. When writing academic or scholarly works, footnotes containing citations should be used.¹

Contains tables 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*. 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.

Cases: Rule 10

- 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

¹ This is an example of a footnote. Your citation should go here.

- Parenthetical containing court information 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

- 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

Citation: N.M. Const. art. IV, § 7.

Statutes: Rule 12

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

Citation: 28 U.S.C. § 1291 (2006).

Books: Rule 15

- 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

- 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>.