

Explanatory Parentheticals

The following information regarding The Bluebook Citation format is an adapted version of the style and formatting guidelines found in *The Bluebook*, 20th ed. (2015). This sheet is to serve as a ready-reference; more information can be found in the handbook sections provided.

Basic Information About Explanatory Parentheticals

WHY USE EXPLANATORY PARENTHETICALS? (Rule 1.5)

- To include additional information to explain the relevance of the cited source.
- To avoid confusion when using multiple sources.

WHEN SHOULD I USE THEM?

- Use them to avoid confusion and offer additional information in these circumstances:
 - To explain the relevance of a particular source
 - To give relevant case history
 - To give additional information about a particular source

HOW DO I USE EXPLANATORY PARENTHETICALS?

They should take the form of a phrase that begins with a present participle, a quoted sentence, or a short statement. To save space, you may omit extraneous words such as “the” unless doing so would create confusion. Do not begin with a capital letter or end with a period unless the parenthetical consists of a quotation that reads as a full sentence.

Examples

Example 1: See generally Akhil Reed Amar, *Reports of My Death Are Greatly Exaggerated: A Reply*, 138 U. Pa. L. Rev. 1651 (1990) (arguing that the author and the two-tier theory of federal jurisdiction is viable).

- ⇒ Parentheticals that give information regarding the relevance of an authority, but not directly quoting it, should begin with a present participle and never with a capital letter.

Example 2: *3 Consequences of Changing U.S. Population: Hearing Before the H. Select Comm. on Population*, 95th Cong. 11 (1978) (statement of Dr. David Birch) (“[T]here are more mayors of Rockland, Maryland, than there are mayors of Detroit.”).

- ⇒ Parentheticals that directly quote one or more sentences from a source should begin with a capital letter and include proper punctuation.

Example 3: See *Flanagan v. United States*, 465 U.S. 259, 264 (1989) (explaining that final judgment rule reduces potential for parties to “clog the courts” with time-consuming appeals).

- ⇒ Parentheticals that directly quote only a phrase from a source should begin with a present participle and not begin with a capital letter.