

# Short Form Citations

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 Short Form Citations

### WHEN CAN I USE SHORT FORM CITATIONS? (Rule 4)

Once you have provided one full citation to an authority, you may use “short form” citations in later citations to the same authority, so long as:

1. It will be clear to the reader from the short form what is being referenced.
2. The earlier full citation falls in the same general discussion.
3. The reader will have little trouble quickly locating the first citation.

## Cases

### WHAT INFORMATION DO I INCLUDE IN THESE CITATIONS? (Rule 10.9)

You can choose to include any portion of the citation, like the volume number and reporter or the case name, in the short form citation. However, usually the case name is kept in order to make the reference easier to find.

The following are all acceptable short form citations for **Palsgraf v. Long Island Railroad Co., 162 N.E. 99, 100 (N.Y. 1928).**

- ⇒ Palsgraf, 162 N.E. at 100.
- ⇒ 162 N.E. at 100.
- ⇒ Id. At 100.

“Id.” is the short form used to refer to the immediately preceding citation. The main purpose of “id.” is to save space and reduce the amount of citation clutter. However, “id.” should only be used in certain circumstances to avoid confusion:

1. When used alone, “id.” refers to the identical pincite referenced in the immediately preceding citation.

**Example:** The Supreme Court has stated unequivocally that “apprehension by the use of deadly force is a seizure subject to the reasonableness requirement of the Fourth Amendment.” Tennessee v. Garner, 471 U.S. 1, 7 (1985). By contrast, minimal police interference will not always constitute a “seizure” for Fourth Amendment purposes. Id.

2. To refer to a different page or footnote within the immediately preceding authority, add “at” and the new pincite.

**Example:** To determine whether a particular exercise of non-lethal police force was reasonable, courts engage in a balancing process that weighs the nature of the intrusion against the “governmental interests.” Id. At 8.

3. “Id.” may only be used when the preceding citation cites to only one source.

# Statutes, Rules, and Restatements

The first mention of a statute, rule, regulation, or legislative material requires a full citation. Subsequent citations in the same general discussion may employ any short form that clearly identifies the source (Rule 12.10, 13.8, 14.5). For example:

Full Citation	Short Citation
Administrative Procedure Act §1, 5 U.S.C. § 551 (2006).	§1 Or 5 U.S.C. § 551 Or Administrative Procedure Act § 1
42 U.S.C. § 1983 (2006).	42 U.S.C. § 1983 Or § 1983
Del. Code Ann. tit. 28, § 1701 (1999).	tit. 28, § 1701 Or § 1701

You may also use “id.” to refer to a statute or regulation codified within the same title as the statute or regulation cited in the immediately preceding citation. For example:

Full Citation	<u>Id.</u> Citation for Identical Provision	<u>Id.</u> Citation for Different Provision Within Same Title
28 U.S.C. § 1331 (2006).	<u>Id.</u>	<u>Id.</u> § 1332(a)(1).
7 C.F.R. § 319.76 (2006).	<u>Id.</u>	<u>Id.</u> § 300.

Note: Do not use a short form citation form (other than id.) for constitutions (Rule 11).

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## Books and Other Nonperiodic Materials

Use “id.” to refer to a book or other nonperiodical material cited in the immediately preceding citation (Rule 4, 15.10, 16.9, 17.6, 18.8).

Otherwise use “supra.” The “supra.” form consists of:

1. The author’s last name.
2. “supra.” underlined up to but not including the comma.
3. A new pincite.

Full Cite	<u>Id.</u> Cite	<u>Supra</u> Cite
Deborah L. Rhode, <u>Justice and Gender</u> 56 (1989).	<u>Id.</u> At 60-61.	Rhode, <u>supra</u> , at 60-61.
A. Leo Levin et al., <u>Dispute Resolution Devices in a Democratic Society</u> 77 (1985).	<u>See id.</u> at 80.	<u>See</u> Levin et al., <u>supra</u> , at 80.
Fleming James, Jr. & Geoffrey C. Hazard, Jr., <u>Civil Procedure</u> § 2.35 (5th ed. 2001).	<u>Id.</u> § 1.7.	James & Hazard, <u>supra</u> , § 1.7.

## Periodical Materials

After providing a full citation of a periodical, you may use “id.” or “supra” in subsequent citations. Use “id.” to refer to periodical material cited in the immediately preceding citation. Otherwise, use the “supra” form (Rule 16.9).

⇒ **Example:** Llewellyn, supra, at 401-06.

## Court and Litigation Documents

After providing a full citation, you may use a short form if (Rule 4, 17.2):

1. It will be clear to the reader what you are citing;
2. The full citation falls in the same general discussion; and
3. The reader will have little trouble locating the full citation.

Full Cite	Short Form
App. To Pet. Cert. 137-39, ECF No. 15.	App. 137-39, ECF No. 15, <u>or</u> App. 137-39.

**Note:** For court documents, id.  
Should only be used if significant space will be saved.

## Citing the Internet

Once internet material has been cited in full, use “id.” or “supra” in subsequent citations (Rule 4, 18.8 (a)).

⇒ **Example 1:** Posner, supra.

⇒ **Example 2:** Daily Kos, supra.