MLA Endnotes and Footnotes

What are Endnotes and Footnotes?

Certain academic fields and advanced-level academic papers require *endnotes or footnotes* to cite sources. Even though the majority of professors will not require this format of documentation, you should always ask your instructor's preference.

Endnotes and footnotes are sometimes used in the following disciplines:

- Art
- Theater
- Theology
- Music
- Dance
- History

MLA Format for Documenting with Notes:

- Endnotes and footnotes have their own format for the documentation of sources. Instead of the in-text parenthetical citation used by MLA, notes refer readers by the use of small superscript numerals.
- A works cited page is still required when using endnotes or footnotes within a paper.
- The small superscript numerals can be placed at the end of a word or sentence. If there is more than one notation within a page or paper, the numerals are placed in order (^{1}, ^{2}, ^{3}) and correspond consecutively with the respective footnotes or endnotes.
- The difference between footnotes and endnotes involves the location of the notes in the document and sometimes the type of document:
    - Endnotes are collected together at the end of the main text of the paper.
    - Footnotes are placed at the bottom of each page of the main text.

In MLA format, footnotes and endnotes can be classified into two types:
Content Notes
Bibliographic Notes

Content Notes

- Content notes provide additional explanation or information for material used within the text of the paper or to clarify what you have written, such as in the following example:

    It can be assumed that organizational image is a two-way perception; not only is the organization sending out a message to its key publics, but the publics themselves are placing their own expectations on the organization as well.[1]

    Note

    1. Throughout this paper, the term *image* is conceptualized as the impression an organization makes on external audiences.

Bibliographic Notes

- Bibliographic notes are used for general in-text references of multiple sources. Page numbers are often referred to within the bibliographic notes, such as in the following examples:

  Much of the literature in the field of image construction and identity development focuses on the organizational images of corporations not universities.[1]

  Recent studies have looked at image assessments of universities, as they are becoming more marketable and functioning as a commodity that can be manufactured, bought, and sold.[2]

  ## Notes

  1. For a sampling of studies that focus on organizational images of corporations, see Alessandri, Yang, and Kinsey 259-270; Treadwell and Harrison 66-68; and Kazoleas 270-72.

  2. For more information on the recent trend of viewing education as a commodity, see Nguyen 351-88 and Sung 370.