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**


⇒ 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.


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

(Last modified: 7/2015)