

SUGGESTED CITATION STYLE FOR ESSAYS

By citing your sources, you acknowledge your scholarly debt to the writers whose ideas and words you include in your writing, and invite your readers to continue to participate in an intellectual conversation by providing information about your sources. The suggested style for citation is MLA (Modern Language Association). However, if you want to use another style (e.g., APA, Chicago Manual of Style), that is also acceptable.

In MLA style, writers use in-text citation as well as a separate "Works Cited" page at the end of the essay. If you have information in addition to source citation, you can use explanatory or discursive footnotes. In footnoting, use a superscript such as this and include your additional information at the bottom of the page.¹ There is no expectation that you will use footnotes; however the option is available.

Examples:

1. Author named in sentence:

In the "Declaration of Sentiments," Elizabeth Cady Stanton critiqued the powerlessness of women in marriage: "He has made her, if married, in the eye of the law, civilly dead."

Note: Our copy of the "Declaration of Sentiments" does not have page numbers, so naming the author in the sentence and placing quotation marks around the "sentiment" taken from the document is fine. If we were working with a copy with page numbers, the sentence would look like this:

In the "Declaration of Sentiments," Elizabeth Cady Stanton critiqued the powerlessness of women in marriage: "He has made her, if married, in the eye of the law, civilly dead" (1).

2. Author *not* named in sentence:

The "Declaration of Sentiments" critiques the powerlessness of women in marriage: "He has made her, if married, in the eye of the law, civilly dead" (Stanton).

With page numbers:

The "Declaration of Sentiments" critiques the powerlessness of women in marriage: "He has made her, if married, in the eye of the law, civilly dead" (Stanton 1).

¹ Explanatory footnotes are useful in providing additional historical information that may be of interest to some readers or in explaining at more lengths terms that you use.