

**MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION (MLA) FORMAT
FOOTNOTES AND ENDNOTES
Regis Writing Center**

For additional information, refer to the *MLA Handbook* or come to the Writing Center.

Footnotes and endnotes are an acceptable alternative to in-text citations and are often used in the fields of art, history, music, religion, theater, and theology. The same format is used for both footnotes and endnotes, but footnotes are placed at the bottom of the page, with a 2" line dividing the text and the notes. Endnotes go at the end of the document on a separate page labeled "Notes." Both footnotes and endnotes are numbered consecutively through the document.

In the text, place a raised Arabic number at the end of a sentence containing quotations, summaries, or paraphrases, just as you do with a parenthetical reference. This raised number goes after the punctuation marks.

Text Example: Abbey states that tourists are the main problem in U.S. parks.¹ Abbey also notes that tourists destroy parks by removing items from the natural habitat.²

The first footnote or endnote will have full bibliographic information (see the reverse side of this handout for information to include). The second and subsequent references to a work will have only the author's name and page number. If you are using two works by the same author, give full bibliographic information for the first reference and then use the author's name, a shortened title of the piece, and the page number for second and subsequent references. If there is no author's name available (for instance, in a pamphlet or newspaper editorial), give all publication information for the first reference and then use a shortened title of the work with the page number for second and subsequent references.

Note Example:

¹ Edward Abbey, Desert Solitaire: A Season in the Wilderness (New York: Ballantine Books, 1968) 25-27.

Subsequent references would be

² Abbey 44-46.

Some professors do not require a bibliography or list of works cited when the note system is used because the notes give information about the publication date, company, and place. Check with your professor to see if a bibliography is required.

Both WordPerfect and MS Word can create footnotes and endnotes. Footnotes created by these programs will stay on the correct page when you revise your work.

SAMPLE FOOTNOTES

Book With One Author:

William Zinsser asserts: "Clutter is the disease of American writing."¹

Book with Two or More Authors:

In the fourth century, Constantine I named his new Christian city Constantinople; this city is now known as Istanbul.² _____

Reference Book:

The days of the Roman Empire were coming to a close: "Rome finally fell in 410 AD with the brutal Visigoth (German) pillage."³

Translation:

Virgil may be the source of the phrase, "The trip to hell is easy."⁴

Periodical Article:

According to Nichole Kolajita, "The United States prospers daily as a result of the recent congressional policies concerning elderly abuse."⁵

Newspaper Article:

The Sunshine National Convention was a transforming event, which "brought bright smiles to the children of Rainbow Elementary."⁶

¹ William Zinsser, On Writing Well, 5th ed. (New York: Harper Collins, 1976) 7.

² Web Browning and Paul Smyth, The Truth About History (San Diego: Omnia Publishing, 1949) 19-34.

³ "The Fall of Rome," The New Encyclopedia for Adults, 1988 ed.

⁴ Virgil, The Aeneid, trans. Tyrone Cobb and Troon Douds (Seattle: Perk-Up Inc., 1994) 403.

⁵ Nichole Kolajita, "Elder Abuse," News Today Oct. 1997: 66.

⁶ Charlotte Mangold, "The Joyous Children," Denver Gazette 11 Sept. 1997: A2-3.