School of Culture and Communication

essay writing guide

arts.unimelb.edu.au/culture-communication
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This is a general essay-writing guide, designed to be useful for students in all disciplines within the School of Culture and Communication. Please see your lecturer/tutor if you have any questions that this guide does not address.

THE ESSAY
The research essay is the foundation of studies in the humanities. It is the key forum in which you get to test your ideas against those of your peers and of other scholars.

Getting started
There are some basic things that you need to remember when beginning your essay.

- An essay presents an argument. It does not simply present information. Your reader wants you to shape the available information, comment on it, and order it in such a way that the essay makes a point
- With this in mind, you should choose a topic that interests you and on which you have a strong opinion
- You should make sure that you answer all parts of the question. This is vital. If there is any part of the question that you do not understand, clarify this with your tutor
- Make sure to carefully examine the key words and concepts in the question so that you answer it correctly. For example:

  Compare: examine the characteristics of the objects in question to demonstrate their similarities and differences
  Contrast: examine the characteristics of the objects in question to demonstrate their differences
  Analyse: Consider the various components of the whole and explain the relationships between them
  Discuss: present the different aspects of a question or problem
  Evaluate: examine the various sides of a question to reach a normative judgment

Planning your essay
Planning your essay is your first and most important task. This includes dividing your time between three stages: researching, writing, and editing. Each of these stages is important to the overall success of your essay. Students often make the mistake of spending too much time on the first stage of their essay and then rushing the final stages. It is pointless to research a large body of secondary material if you do not leave time to engage with it properly.

It is important that your essay attempts to contribute to and engage with current theories and developments in your field. Try to read the most recent secondary materials on your topic, as these are likely to give you the best ideas about the current debates surrounding it. You should also remember that in many disciplines in the school (eg Art History, English and Theatre Studies, Screen Studies, etc.) the primary focus of your essay should be the primary material (book, painting, film or performance) under consideration. Secondary reading should, then, not be the only focus of your essay. Rather, it should help you to strengthen the claims that you wish to make about the text under consideration.
Researching Your Essay

In general, essays require an analytical approach and written work must present an argument. This is because essays are generally answers to questions which ask whether or not you agree with a certain statement, or which ask you to discuss something critically, to assess a statement, or to make a choice. An argument is a series of propositions, supported by evidence or reasoning, and connected in a logical manner, that leads to a justified conclusion. This is why secondary material is so important in helping you build and sustain your argument through the use of good evidence and valid reasoning. Depending upon your discipline or subject, you may need a range of secondary materials in print and electronic form, including books, journal articles, book chapters and newspaper articles.

Think laterally about the kinds of secondary materials that you use for an essay. For example, if you are writing on the representation of the heroine in Jane Austen's *Northanger Abbey*, don't just look for articles/books on Austen or *Northanger Abbey*. You may not be able to find a book or article that is solely concerned with *Northanger Abbey*. Or you might find that all of the books on the text might have been already borrowed from the library. If this happens to you, try changing your approach. You might find something useful to your essay by looking up books on the history of the gothic; or on women writers in the late eighteenth century; or on the rise of the novel. And when you're thinking about what kinds of secondary materials might be useful to you, you will find that the way in which you want to analyse the primary material will help you to choose which secondary material might be most appropriate. For example, if you are concerned with looking at issues of gender in the novel, you are more likely to find something of use for your essay in an historical account of the role of women in eighteenth-century England.

Writing your essay

When considering the way in which you would like to answer the question you choose, remember that your essay should engage with the topic in terms of the particular issues raised in lectures and tutorials. Be careful at this stage not to stray too far from the objectives of the subject. Write up a preliminary plan, making sure that you have a clear-cut introduction, a developing argument, and a conclusion.

Try to avoid making your introduction sound too much like a dictionary or encyclopedia entry: it's usually best to go straight to the issue, and then come back to any necessary background detail or definition once you have established the angle you are taking. Similarly, your conclusion should not merely restate what you have said in your introduction. Nor should it introduce new material. Rather, it should tie all of the various threads of your argument together and point them in a particular direction. Remember, the aim of the game is to attract your tutor’s attention. A repetitive conclusion is not an effective way to end an essay.

The best time to see your tutor is once you have a detailed essay plan, illustrating how each point of your argument follows on from the previous one and how you will use primary and secondary materials to support your claims. Once you have a plan, you can then go on to write the essay proper. Make sure that you allow yourself enough time to further develop your ideas through the writing process.

Writing for academic and practical subjects

In Media and Communications, you will undertake both ‘practical’ and ‘academic’ subjects. These require very different writing styles. The differences between mass media writing and academic style can cause some confusion for students, particularly during the first year when you will undertake both types of subjects and are still learning what is expected of you. To summarise, the tone of academic writing is evaluative/critical/argumentative and integrates extensive references for support. In academic writing, the writer puts forward a point of view or proposition, and uses their writing to support and/or defend that point of view. Academic writers write for academic readers. They also use the writings of other academics to support their own position. Although it need not be difficult to read, an academic piece is full of complex ideas, references, citations and includes a bibliography.

By contrast, mass media writing (the type of writing used by media professionals such as journalists and the type that you see in newspaper articles, for example) has different conventions because it has
different purposes and audiences in mind. Please note that you will be given very explicit instructions about mass media writing style in these practical subjects. For all other subjects, you are expected to use an ‘academic’ writing style.

A note on Internet sources
Internet sources should be approached with great caution. Many websites, unlike most books and articles, have not undergone any process of scholarly evaluation and appraisal before publication. Unless you are undertaking a study of, say, fan communities, it is best to limit your use of the internet to internet-based scholarly journals. To ensure that you are getting good quality internet sources, look for the words ‘peer-reviewed,’ or ‘peer-refereed’ in the journal’s information. Wikipedia and the like are not acceptable sources of scholarly information.

Style tips
The key to a successful essay is not just content. You must try to make sure that your essay is clearly written, and easy to follow. The ‘Keep It Simple’ principle is useful to follow when it comes to writing. Don’t allow jargon to detract from the effectiveness of your argument. Also, remember that it is useful to read through your essay aloud before submission, and/or to get a friend or relative to read it over for you.

Some other useful tips
- Invest in a good dictionary. The *Macquarie Dictionary* is the Australian standard and, in general, English spelling is preferred to American
- Apostrophes. Students often get their use of apostrophes confused. Apostrophes indicate possession (Sally’s cat) and they are also used to form contractions (can’t, or isn’t). One of the most common problems is confusing its (the possessive of it, as in ‘its quality’) and it’s (the contraction of ‘it is’). You should also remember that apostrophes are not required to form the plural of a number (1990s)
- Avoid repetitive expression. Try to find synonyms or other ways of rephrasing your central ideas. This will show you have a nuanced understanding of the issues
- You should make sure that your essay is the right length. Assignments that exceed the word limit by more than 10%, inclusive of footnotes and quotations, attract a marking penalty of 10% of the marks that would otherwise have been awarded. Assignments that exceed the word limit by 25% or more may attract a higher penalty, including a cap on the maximum grade awarded. For example, an assignment with a limit of 2000 words will be marked down by 10% if there are more than 2200 words. If there are 2500 words or more, the maximum result that may be awarded is an H2B. For further information about the University’s assessment policy, see:

Assessment Procedure (MPF1026) in the University’s Policy Library: [Assessment and Results Policy (MPF1326)](http://www.policy.unimelb.edu.au/schedules/MPF1026-ScheduleA.pdf)

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION
You can apply for special consideration if your academic work is adversely affected by problems beyond your control. Relevant circumstances include illness, various forms of stress, and compassionate grounds. However, your academic workload (ie the studies you have undertaken to complete with full knowledge of assessment loads and dates of submission) does not constitute grounds for Special Consideration.

Applications for Special Consideration are made via my.unimelb [https://my.unimelb.edu.au] and must be submitted no later than 5pm on the third working day after the submission/sitting date for the relevant assessment component.
Administrative functions, such as applying for Special Consideration, can be found in the Student admin tab of my.unimelb. Click the 'Go to exams & results' button under the Exams & results portlet on the Student Admin tab and select the Apply for Special Consideration link.

You must then submit your Health Professional Report (HPR) form or Statutory Declaration and any other supporting documentation within five (5) working days of your online application. The scanned copy of the completed HPR form must be submitted online via my.unimelb. If this is not possible please submit the hardcopy HPR to the office listed on the front of your HPR form.

Once you have lodged your Special Consideration form it is important to contact your tutor or lecturer to arrange a new submission date for your written work. All applications for Special Consideration must be discussed with your tutor or Lecturer-in-Charge of the subject before being lodged, and all information provided will remain confidential. No extension on your final essay/assignment is possible if you have not lodged Special Consideration and received confirmation that your Special Consideration has been approved. Final essays submitted late without Special Consideration and an approved extension will not be accepted. You are not eligible for a pass in any subject unless you have completed and submitted all required assessable written work.

In the event of an emergency that delays the completion of a specific essay during the semester, contact your tutor or the Lecturer-in-Charge for a short extension (extensions may be granted depending on the circumstances). Requests for extension will not be approved after the final due date without an application for Special Consideration and supporting documentation provided (as per details above).

PLAGIARISM AND COLLUSION

Plagiarism, or the act of representing as one’s own original work the creative works of another, without appropriate acknowledgment of the author or source, is taken very seriously in the School of Culture and Communication. If a student is found to have deliberately plagiarised the work of another - including copying the work of other students - the penalties are severe.

Collusion is the presentation by a student of an assignment as his or her own which is in fact the result in whole or in part of unauthorised collaboration with another person or persons. Collusion involves the cooperation of two or more students in plagiarism or other forms of academic misconduct. Both the student presenting the assignment and the student(s) willingly supplying unauthorised material (colluders) are considered participants in the act of academic misconduct.

Examples of Plagiarism

The following are examples of plagiarism where appropriate acknowledgement or referencing of the author or source does not occur:

- Copying directly (or allowing to be copied) paragraphs, sentences, a single sentence or significant parts of a sentence. An end reference without quotation marks around the copied text may also constitute plagiarism
- Copying ideas, concepts, research results, statistical tables, computer programs, designs, images, sounds or text or any combination of these
- Paraphrasing of another's work closely, with minor changes but with the essential meaning, form and/or progression of ideas maintained
- Relying on a specific idea or interpretation that is not one's own without identifying whose idea or interpretation it is
- Cutting or pasting statements from multiple sources or piecing together work of others and representing them as original work
- Presenting as independent, work done in collaboration with other people (eg, another student, a tutor)
Avoiding Plagiarism

A good rule of thumb is, if in doubt as to whether to give credit to another author for an idea, give credit. When writing up your research notes for incorporation into an essay, make sure that you enclose all quoted sources in inverted commas. This means that when you take notes from your reading, you need to distinguish very carefully between the words that you copy directly and your own paraphrase of a passage. Anything you paraphrase and then place in an essay must have an accurate page number placed at the end of it, and you must place any direct quotes in inverted commas. Paraphrasing is, however, a dangerous method to adopt as it can often lead to unconscious plagiarism if you only end up making tiny changes to the author’s words.

Given the dangers inherent in paraphrasing, it is often better to quote from a critic and then explain your own understanding of what the critic says. This demonstrates not only that you have undertaken the required research for an essay, but that you can also apply this research to your own ideas. For example, you might say,

Bloggs notes that Byron’s heroes “are clearly designed to be read as substitutions of the poet himself” (16). In other words, what Bloggs is suggesting is that Byron’s poetry capitalised on the more sensational aspects of his personal life.

What happens if you lecturer or tutor thinks that you have plagiarised?

If your lecturer or tutor thinks you may have plagiarised in an essay, they can call you before a meeting of the examiner’s board, consisting of the Head of Discipline, the Chair of Undergraduate Studies and the Lecturer-in-charge of the subject. A member of the professional staff (the Undergraduate Studies Manager) will also attend to take notes of the meeting. The board may ask you to show how your essay was put together from your notes, or to explain ideas that are presented as your own in the essay through inadequate referencing. Depending on the circumstances, you may be given no marks at all, and you may be given a fail grade for the subject.

For more information please see the Academic Integrity at the University of Melbourne website.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Presenting and submitting your essay

Assessment submission in the School of Culture and Communication is a two-step process. Please note that both* of these steps must be completed by the due date and time before work can be assessed.

1 Students must submit assessment via the online submission portal on the LMS site for the subject. This will act as an electronic receipt of assessment submission

AND

2 A hard-copy of the written work for assessment must be submitted to the School office and include a completed School Assessment Coversheet. The cover sheet includes a declaration, which students must sign. The declaration relates to the originality (lack of plagiarism, collusion, etc.) of student work. Essay cover sheets are available from relevant subject LMS sites and can also be found on the School of Culture and Communication Students Undergraduate web page.
All work submitted through the School office will be collated and passed on to the relevant tutor / lecturer within 24 hours.

* LECTURERS/TUTORS MAY CHOOSE TO ASSESS AND PROVIDE FEEDBACK ONLINE AND WILL INFORM YOU IF YOU DO NOT NEED TO SUBMIT A HARD COPY.

Both hard copy and electronic submission must be made by the due date specified for each piece of assessment. Assignments will not be accepted via fax or email. Students are expected to retain a copy of all work submitted for assessment.

Students are entitled to feedback responding to their assessment. All essay-based assessment completed during the semester must be returned to students in a designated tutorial or seminar, or during teaching staff consultation hours with comments together with a grade only on the following scale:

80%-100% H1 First-class honours, excellent: Superior analysis, comprehensive research, sophisticated theoretical or methodological understanding, impeccable presentation - work that is (in at least some respects) erudite, original exciting or challenging.

Marks of 95% or above are for truly exceptional work, and should always be validated by double marking.

75%-79% H2A Second-class honours, Level A, very good: Scholarly presentation, thoroughly researched, well argued. Complex understanding of subject matter, subtle argument and analysis.

70%-74% H2B Second-class honours, Level B, good: Average or better than average work, with solid research, perceptive analysis, effective preparation and presentation.

65%-69% H3 Third-class honours, competent: Good understanding of key ideas, sound analytical skills, well presented, researched and documented.

50%-64% P Pass, satisfactory: Completion of key tasks at an adequate level of performance in argumentation, documentation and expression.

0%-49% N Fail, not satisfactory: Where a student fails a subject, all failed components of the assessment must be double marked.

**Return of essays**

Marked essays completed during semester will be returned to you in tutorials or online, depending on the nature of the assessment.

Feedback on FINAL assignments (excluding tests / exams) will be made available to students after the University's official release of results date in the relevant semester.

Feedback will be provided:
- Online, if your lecturer/tutor informs you that that’s what they will be doing
- Written on the assessment hard copy provided, and available for collection from the SCC office or
- Students may provide a self-addressed stamped envelope attached to the assessment, and it will be posted after the release of results

**Re-assessment of written work**

Students who have any queries about the mark or feedback provided on the assessment must consult with their tutor in the first instance. If the issue is not resolved at this point, you may be given the opportunity to resubmit the work - but if this is the case, it can only be graded pass/fail. If, once you have consulted your tutor, you are still unhappy with your assessment, you can take your claims to the
lecturer in charge of the subject. If, at the conclusion of the semester, when all written work has
been assessed, the matter has not been resolved and you feel that you need to request a re-
assessment, you should write to the Chair of the Undergraduate Studies Committee explaining why
you believe your work has been wrongly assessed and graded, enclosing all original pieces of
assessment submitted in the subject. These must have the marker’s comments on them and must be
submitted within 2 weeks of the release of final results.

Further information about the procedure for Reassessment can be found on the Melbourne Policy
Library website.

Documenting your sources
There are many different ways of documenting your sources. You should make sure that you
are consistent in your application of the method of documentation you choose, and that all
relevant information is given. Please keep in mind that your discipline might have a preferred method
of source documentation, so it is important that you find out whether or not this is the case before you
begin your essay.

Note: Keep track of all quotations that you have taken from sources, including page numbers. There is
nothing more frustrating than having a great quote that you want to use in your essay and not
being able to locate where you found it.

You may find it useful to consult the Baillieu Library's citation guide, re:cite
http://www.lib.unimelb.edu.au/recite/

Unless your tutor or lecturer specifies a particular citation style that you must use, you should be able
to use any style provided you use it accurately and consistently. Examples of some of the major
citation styles follow in the subsequent pages.

Chicago Style
This system is an author-date method, it does not have footnotes or footnote numbers. Cited
references are referred to in the text, and listed in the bibliography at the end of the text. Examples:

BOOK
In Text:
(Creed 2003, 53) or ... Creed (2003, 53)
Reference List

BOOK (MULTIPLE AUTHORS)
In Text:
(Creed and Hoorn 2001, 87) or ... Creed and Hoorn (2001, 87) ...
Reference List:
Creed, Barbara, ad Jeanette Hoorn, eds. 2001. Body Trade: Captivity, Cannibalism and Colonialism
In the Pacific. Annandale, N.S.W.: Pluto Press.

CHAPTER
In Text:
(Ndalianis 2002, 509) or ... Ndalianis (2002, 509) ...
Reference List
Ndalianis, Angela. 2002. ‘The rules of the game: Evil Dead II ... Meet Thy Doom.’ In Hop on Pop:
The Politics and Pleasure of Popular Culture, ed. H. Jenkins, T. McPherson and J. Shattuc,
JOURNAL ARTICLE
_In Text:_
(Ndalianis 1997) or ... Ndalianis (1997) ...

_Reference List_

E-JOURNAL ARTICLE
_In Text:_
(Ndalianis 2000) or ... Ndalianis (2000) ...

_Reference List:_
Ndalianis, Angela, 2000. ‘The frenzy of the visible: spectacle and motion in the era of the digital.’ _Senses of Cinema_ 3 (February),
http://www.sensesofcinema.com/contents/00/3/matrix.html

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE
_In Text:_
In her article on the Melbourne launch of Japanese Story in _The Age_, 22 July 2003, Gabriella Coslovich ...
_Not listed in reference list._

DVD
_Not cited in text._
_Reference List:_

VIDEO
_Not cited in text._
_Reference List:_

WEBSITE
_In Text:_
(McEldowney 1994). Or ... McEldowney (1994) ...
_Reference List:_


Exhibition Catalogue Style
This is a bibliographic style based on those commonly used for exhibition catalogues. The essential feature is that every footnote reference, including the first, takes the short form (Smith, 2000), and that this short form is used as a label in the bibliography. The formatting is a variant of the Cambridge style.

This style can be used with the EndNote bibliography program, available free to students. See the library’s endnote website at http://www.lib.unimelb.edu.au/home

To generate your bibliography in Exhibition Catalogue Style using EndNote, download the style file which is available at http://www.lib.unimelb.edu.au/home/downloads/output_styles
With your endnote program closed, click on the download link (option-click for Mac; you may need to resave without the .ens subscript in the name) for this file and save it in the ‘Styles’ folder/directory of your EndNote program. To use this style:

1. Open your endnote program
2. From the Edit menu choose Output Styles: Open Style Manager
3. Browse the alphabetical list of styles for Art History Exh Cat
4. Click in the box to the left of the style name
5. Close the style manager

Art History Exhibition Catalogue is now available in your dropdown list of ‘favourite’ styles (at the top of the screen when you have your endnote library open)

Also, remember that you will need to add some brief information in the LABEL field of each record in your endnote library. Normally this will be author and year. If you are not using Endnote simply follow the examples below.

For further details about Endnote, see the Endnote subject guide

EXAMPLE OF BASIC FOOTNOTE

Note that there is a comma between author and date of the label. Use ‘p.’ for a single page reference, or ‘pp.’ for a multiple one. Do not use ‘pg.’ or other forms.

EXAMPLE OF BOOK ITEM IN BIBLIOGRAPHY

Wittkower, 1961:
This is the label field, of the kind employed in exhibition catalogues. This is set in bold for easy recognisability. Note that a colon is the separator. Because exhibition catalogues often have huge numbers of references, in a great diversity of items (essays, catalogue entries, etc.) all these items use short citations (labels) followed by page numbers and so forth, with the full bibliographic details in a general bibliography at the end of the book. The label can be added to an Endnote reference by filling out the field called ‘Label’. This is done manually. In principle, you can label the item any way you like, though normally it is the author, or authors (to a maximum of 3) and date, no comma between. You can use labels for archival sites (see below).

Rudolf Wittkower,
This is the author field, with first name first. Note that the separators between all fields except label and author, and place and publisher, is a comma.

Bernini. The Sculptor of the Roman Baroque,
This is the title field, and is in italics. If the title is in two parts, as here (‘Bernini’ is the first part ‘The Sculptor of the Roman Baroque’ is the second) the separator should be either a full stop, as here, or a colon.

London: Phaidon,
These are the place and publisher fields. Note that the separator between place and publisher is a colon. As a rule, include the publisher, but sometimes this is not practicable. Try to be as consistent as possible.

1961.
This is the year field. It is normally the last item in a bibliography reference, and so ends with a full stop. Note that page numbers are not used for full book references in a bibliography, only for book sections or journal articles. (They are always used in footnotes, however.)
EXAMPLE OF JOURNAL ITEM IN BIBLIOGRAPHY


‘The Structure of Henry Hoare’s Stourhead’,
This is the article title field. It is always enclosed in inverted commas, not italics. Do not confuse this with the journal title.

*Art Bulletin*,
This is the journal title field, and is always in italics.

21,
This is the journal volume field. Do not prefix it with ‘vol.’ or anything else. Use arabic numerals, not Roman.

no. 1,
This is the issue field. It may be ‘January’ or something similar as well. Normally it is sufficient to omit this and simply use the journal volume field, although for newspapers and other periodicals not normally consulted in bound sets it should be included.

pp. 68-77.
This is the pages field. Use ‘p.’ for a single page and ‘pp.’ for a range. Do not use ‘pg.’ or, in this style, omit the ‘p.’ Note these conventions for abbreviating number ranges:

pp. 68-77.
pp. 168-77. [ie repeat only the last two numbers]
but
pp. 107-9. [ie do not have a loose ‘0’ for numbers under 10].

FURTHER EXAMPLES OF BIBLIOGRAPHY ITEMS

**Book (basic)**


**Later edition of book**


**Two books with the same author and year**


**Article (basic)**


**Article with issue as well as volume number**


**Book section (basic)**

Thesis (not in published form, including UMI photocopies and microfiches)


For theses that have been published as proper books, e.g. by UMI Research Press, or Garland, treat as a normal book.

Exhibition catalogue with no authors

Exhibition catalogues without a clearly indicated author/s may be set out as follows, omitting the author field and giving the site, sites, or principal site of the exhibition, in addition to the place of publication of the catalogue, which may not be the same. Construct the label from the site or sites of the exhibition and the date.


Museum catalogue without a clearly indicated author


Archival Source

You can construct the label in a minimal form, so that the bibliography looks like this:

ASV: Rome, Archivio Segreto Vaticano.

In which case the footnotes will look like this:

22. ASV, Fondo Rospigliosi, 1140, fols. 33r-37v.

Or more fully, so that the bibliography looks like this:

ASV Rospigliosi 1140: Rome, Archivio Segreto Vaticano, Fondo Rospigliosi, 1140.

In which case the footnotes will look like this:

ASV Rospigliosi 1140, fols. 33r-37v.

Note that, when using the Art History Exhibition Catalogue Style, you should not provide a separate list for archival sources. They should be included with the other bibliography items and presented in alphabetical order of label.

Newspapers

The Art History Exhibition Catalogue Style is not particularly well adapted to newspaper articles. If the article is substantial, and has a clear author, it can be cited as an authored article:

Rahill, 2003: Michael Rahill, ‘Sorry, But the New NGV is a Failure’, The Age, Monday 15 December 2003, Opinion, p. 11.

In other cases cite the newspaper generically in the bibliography:

The Age: The Age Newspaper, Melbourne.

In the footnote, use the label and the reference details:

Websites
It should be noted that only a very few websites have information that is sufficiently reliable to be used in essays. There are dozens of sites that rehash information in an amateurish way, giving no sources. These should not be used. Sites like Olga’s Gallery or Web Gallery of Art do not provide verified information. At best, websites can be useful for downloading an image to paste into your essay as an illustration, but any information should be verified in a proper source. In any case you should look at books or slides since the low-resolution images you find on such site are no substitute for studying a work of art in a good quality book illustration.

Moreover, the URLs of most websites are completely uninformative. Therefore you must explain the nature of the site in your bibliography, and you should normally justify the use of this site in your annotations to the bibliography when your lecturer requests an annotated bibliography. The URL should give the home page or main point of entry to the site.

Hence use the following form for the bibliography:

**Getty Provenance Index:** The Getty Provenance Index. This site provides data about paintings in old collections based on inventories and old sale catalogues. URL: [http://www.getty.edu/research/conducting_research/provenance_index/](http://www.getty.edu/research/conducting_research/provenance_index/)

The footnote should provide all the information needed to retrace your steps, and should get to the bottom of where the information is coming from. In this case, it would need to give reference to the actual archival documents, based on what the site tells you. In other cases the data will simply be information presented on a particular page of a website, such as a museum website, in which case you cite the full URL.

**Grove**
Articles from Grove Art Online may be cited as follows:


Articles from *The Oxford Companion to Western Art* (OCWA) in Grove Art Online may be cited as follows:


**ORDERING THE BIBLIOGRAPHY**
The bibliography should be organised alphabetically. Bibliographies organised by subject matter should be avoided. But if, on the advice of your supervisor, your topic requires a bibliography organised by subject, please discuss the most appropriate methods of citation with your supervisor. It is also important that you double-check that every item in the footnotes is to be found in the bibliography; it is easy to leave items off the bibliography. Archival sources, interviews etc., should be included within the alphabetical listing of the bibliography.

**BIBLIOGRAPHIC ANNOTATIONS**
For theses, the bibliography need not be annotated. In most other subjects, however, you should annotate your bibliography as a matter of course.

**NUMBERING FOOTNOTES**
Footnote numbers should preferably be placed without brackets slightly above the line (superscript) at the end of the phrase or sentence or paragraph to which they refer. If for some reason you are unable to produce superscript numbers, it is an acceptable alternative to place footnote numbers in brackets on the line (1) at the end of the phrase or sentence or paragraph to which they refer. Footnotes are to be numbered consecutively throughout the thesis, and placed at the foot of the page to which they refer.
Footnotes are preferable to endnotes. Footnotes can easily be converted to endnotes and vice versa in programs like Microsoft Word.

**FOOTNOTE STYLE**

In the footnotes, for all references, including the first, use the label.

20. Wittkower, 1997, pp. 8-10

Do not use *ibid.*, *loc. cit.* etc. If there two successive references are to the same publication, simply repeat the label:


If you are referring to a footnote, set out with both page number where the footnote appears and the footnote number:


In referring to catalogue entries, give both page number and catalogue number:


Note that this style should not be confused with the Harvard style, where short citations are placed in the text:

… it has been shown that all swans are not black (Smith and Wesson, 2001). In fact, white swans exist …

For Art History theses and essays all references should be in footnotes, not in Harvard style.

**FURTHER READING ON PRESENTATION**


*The Chicago Manual of Style*, 14th edition, Chicago and London: Chicago University Press, 1993. This is probably the most detailed manual of American practice for publications. It is, on the whole, more detailed than required for undergraduate essays, but every postgraduate should own a copy.


**ABSTRACT (SYNOPSIS)**

An abstract or synopsis (ie a summary of your argument) of about 100 words should be attached to the beginning of the thesis. The abstract is not your opening paragraph. It is entirely separate from the thesis itself. As a rule of thumb, the opening paragraph should state the problem which you are about to explore and the way in which you are going to explore it. The conclusion should explain the conclusions you have reached on the assumption that the bulk of the thesis is still fresh in the reader’s mind. The abstract should set out in a condensed form the problem, the main stages of your discussion, and your conclusion. For examples of abstracts see the abstracts in *Bibliography of the History of Art* (BHA) or the headings to articles in journals like *Melbourne Art Journal*, *Art Bulletin* and *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*. Make sure that your abstract does in fact summarise your argument - sometimes theses have excellent abstracts that have nothing to do with the thesis.
REFERENCES TO WORKS OF ART

Text References
Works of art discussed in the text should be properly identified. In the text it is sufficient to write something like:

… Sheep are an important theme in nineteenth-century Australian painting. For example, in Tom Robert’s Shearing the Rams, there are several rams …

But in the footnote, here note 33, give full details of the work:

33. Tom Roberts, Shearing the Rams. Melbourne, National Gallery of Victoria, inv. no. 98.892.

This may well duplicate captions to the illustrations in honours theses, but that is OK.

It is often appropriate to give a reference as well to enable the reader to locate the key literature, such as a collection catalogue or catalogue raisonné, hence:


Often it is appropriate to include details of date, medium and dimensions. Separate the unit of artist, title and date from medium and dimensions by a full stop, and similarly from the location:


The title of a work of art is set off using italics. Be careful to distinguish this from the subject, which is not italicised:

… the myth of Diana and Actaeon is represented in Titian's Actaeon Discovering Diana Bathing in the National Gallery of Scotland, Edinburgh.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Inclusion of Illustrations
Where practicable, include photocopies of all works of art or other visual material referred to in the essay. Passing references need not be illustrated, but at any point where you are examining the visual evidence closely it is important that you supply illustrations and give clear references to them.

For theses it is sufficient to provide good quality black and white photocopies, but these should be trimmed and mounted on pages on which the captions have been printed. For undergraduate essays, the provision of photocopies of pages from books with your figure number clearly written on it is sufficient. (Full illustration details are provided in the footnotes, as above.)

For theses, if colour is important to your argument it is a good idea to illustrate key works with colour laser copies. A good idea is to make a good colour or black and white laser copy of works important to your research, and keep these in a plastic pocket. You can slip caption details loose into the pocket while you are working on the thesis. When you have your illustration for the thesis in order, with the numbering finalised, print out the list of illustrations onto a full A4 size laser label. Cut the relevant label with a knife and attach to the laser copy, and use this as a master copy to be photocopied for the submitted copies.

If you are fully digital, using scans from books and editing images in Photoshop, note that Photoshop has the option to put a caption in the file (not as a graphic in the image itself), and to print the caption when you print the file.
**Illustration References**

Refer to illustrations as (fig. 5) etc. in the text, and number them accordingly:

… in Tom Robert’s *Shearing the Rams* (Fig. 5).[^33] This painting …

Note that figure references come after the work title, before any punctuation, which in turn comes before any footnote numbers.

Full references to illustrations should be given in the List of Illustrations, and should take the following form, including the source of the illustration in brackets:

**Fig. 5.** Tom Roberts, *Shearing the Rams*. Oil on canvas, 166 x 243cm. Melbourne, National Gallery of Victoria, inv.no. 98.892. (Hoff 1995, p. 67.)

**Fig. 6.** View of Federation Square, Melbourne, from Swanston Street. (Author.)

You may choose to give more information than this, or may be required to do so (such as date, measurements, or medium). If using the Art Hist Ex Cat Endnote style, you can put these details in the ‘Artwork’ Reference Type. Put the artist’s name in the ‘Author’ field (Tom Roberts), the work title in the ‘Title’ field (*Shearing the Rams*), the city where the painting is in the ‘City’ field (Melbourne), the Museum AND Inventory number in the ‘Publisher’ field (National Gallery of Victoria, inv. no. 98.892); and the Medium and Dimensions in the ‘Type of Work Field’, (Oil on canvas, 166 x 234 cm).

**Harvard System**

The Harvard system (otherwise known as the ‘author-date’ system) is designed to give enough information within the body of the text to enable the reader to locate the item in a reference list at the end of the essay.

It is important to recognise that even among users of the Harvard system there are still some variations in style. The Harvard system as outlined in this guide is based on the style used for the journal Media, Culture and Society. If you would like more examples of referencing this style go to the journals at [http://www.sagepub.co.uk/](http://www.sagepub.co.uk/) and view the online sample copy of this journal.

**CITING REFERENCES IN THE TEXT**

The basic citation in the author-date system consists of the last name of an author and the year of publication of the work, followed (where appropriate) by the page numbers. Within the author-date system, terms such as ‘ibid’ and ‘op cit’ are not used. Most citations should indicate the relevant pages. To cite an entire book for a specific point is generally unacceptable. Citations should be, wherever possible, placed at the end of a sentence (before the concluding punctuation).

**SOME EXAMPLES**

C. Wright Mills described the media as a powerful instrument of control on behalf of an interlocked ‘power elite’ (Mills, 1956: 45).

You can also integrate the author’s surname into the text, followed by the year of publication in parentheses:

McLuhan (1964: 3) has argued that the electronic media have been ‘abolishing both space and time …’.
If there is more than one reference by an author in the same year they are generally labelled in order of publication with a lower case letter:

Other researchers faced this problem (Staris, 1992a: 98) while Stairs (1992b: 3) later recognized.

If the author's name is unknown you should give the title of the article, book, newspaper or webpage:

This was the worst election loss in the party's history (The Age, 1968: 2).

When more than one study is cited, arrange the references in alphabetical order and use semicolons to separate them:

A number of researchers (Bennett, 1967; Dent, 1969; Groom, 1969) have advanced this argument; however, the opposite view also has considerable support (Cummings, 1985; Norquest, 1984: 256-63).

Use 'et al.' when citing a work by more than two authors, e.g. Brown et al. (1988).

The letters a, b, c etc. should be used to distinguish different citations by the same author in the same year, eg Brown (1985a, 1985b). All references cited in the text should be listed alphabetically and in full after the notes.

FOOTNOTES IN THE HARVARD SYSTEM
Footnotes are not used for citation, but to expand on points in the text, or to provide information on citations of newspaper articles, interviews and personal communications. However, they should be used sparingly.

THE WORKS CITED LIST
In the Harvard style works cited list, the sources that you refer to in your text should be cited by name of the author (or authors) and the year of publication. The reference list is arranged alphabetically by the author, then by date. If the author is unknown, then use the title.

**Book:**

**Book by two or more authors:**

**Book chapter:**

**Book published in a second or subsequent edition:**

**Edited book:**

**Film:**
Give the English-language title first, followed by any original language title, date, director(s), production company or companies, country or countries of origin and running time.

**Government publication:**

**Journal article:**

**Multiple newspaper articles (no obvious author) with the same source and year:**


**Newspaper:**

If no obvious author:


**Television program:**
Television programs are identified as video recordings, with details of television transmission given:


**Theatre Studies: Performance citations**
In your bibliography you should include sections for written and published sources and performances, movies, concerts, etc, where relevant. Include the title of the performance, the key artistic person (author, director, choreographer, the company, the venue and the date of viewing). For example:

‘Scenes from the Beginning of the End’, directed by David Pledger, produced by NYID inc at The Public Office, 22/3/01.

**Website:**
Where a web page gives a precise date of publication, it should be included. The date when the page was accessed should also be included (since many webpages change frequently).

BBC Online (1999), *Walking with Dinosaurs* website, [http://www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk) 9th June, [date accessed].

**Online news article:**
MLA
The MLA system uses parenthetical references to identify quotations and a 'Works Cited' list at the end of your essay to list sources. Footnotes are used in this system only for supplementary information. Any student planning to undertake study in the above disciplines at honours level or above should consider purchasing a copy of the MLA Handbook as it is an invaluable resource.

SOME TIPS ON PREPARING YOUR WORKS CITED LIST
- Only include sources you cite in the body of your essay
- Do not use dot points
- Make sure you place your sources in alphabetical order
- Carefully check the placement of commas, colons etc.
- Above all, be consistent

BOOK

RE Published BOOK

TRANSLATED BOOK

TWO OR MORE BOOKS BY THE SAME AUTHOR
Works listed under the same name are alphabetised by title:


CHAPTER IN AN ESSAY COLLECTION

ESSAY COLLECTION

JOURNAL ARTICLE

JOURNAL ARTICLE IN A REFERENCE BOOK

ENCYCLOPEDIA ARTICLE, SIGNED

ENCYCLOPEDIA ARTICLE, OR DICTIONARY ENTRY, UNSIGNED
PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED SCHOLARLY ARTICLE REPRINTED IN A COLLECTION OF ESSAYS


EXCERPTED SOURCES FROM MULTIVOLUME CRITICAL ANTHOLOGIES


BOOK IN A SERIES

If the book you are citing is part of a series, include the series name at the end of the entry, after the medium of publication:


FILM

A film entry normally begins with the title, followed by the director, the distributor, the year of release, and the medium consulted (e.g. “Film” or “DVD”). You may include the names of the screenwriter, actors, etc. if important; add them between the title and the distributor:

*Napoleon Dynamite.* Dir. Jared Hess. 20th Century Fox, 2004. Film.


REVIEW


ARTICLE FROM A MONTHLY MAGAZINE


ARTICLE FROM A WEEKLY MAGAZINE


NEWSPAPER ARTICLE


LECTURE


ARTICLE IN AN ELECTRONIC JOURNAL


WEBSITE

Citations for electronic resources should usually include the following information, in order: name of author/editor/etc., title of work, title of website (if different), version/edition used (if known), publisher (if no publisher information available, use N.p.), date of publication, medium of publication (Web), date of access.

Since 2009, the MLA has recognised that users are unlikely to type unwieldy URLs (which often change) and are more likely to use a search engine like Google to locate online resources. Inclusion of
URLs is thus of limited value, and has been abandoned by the MLA. URLs should only be included as supplementary information when it is unlikely that a user could locate the resource without it.


**IN-TEXT CITATION**
The MLA system uses parenthetical citations, not footnotes. When you quote or paraphrase someone else’s work, you must give the author’s name and the page number of your quote in parentheses, usually at the end of the sentence or clause. If you mention the author in the sentence itself, you need only cite the page number. You do not need to cite page numbers at all if you are referring to an entire work.

Basic examples:

Badiou’s philosophy “takes a forbiddingly systematic form; it is anti historical, technically mathematical and broadly Maoist in political persuasion” (Osbourne 19).

Osbourne notes, “despite appearances, Badiou is insistent that his philosophy has no ‘foundational ambition’” (22).

If the quote is more than three lines long, you must indent it and the parentheses is placed after the punctuation.

Austen’s depiction of Marianne is designed to highlight the physical manifestations of her sensibility:

Miss Dashwood had a delicate complexion, regular features, and a remarkably pretty figure. Marianne was still handsomer. Her form, though not as correct as her sister’s, in having the advantage of height, was more striking ... her features were all good; her smile was sweet and attractive, and in her eyes, which were dark, there was a life, a spirit, an eagerness which could hardly be seen without delight. (39)

The ellipses ( ... ) here indicate that material has been omitted.

To cite a Shakespeare play, you must refer to the Act, scene, and line numbers rather than the page numbers. Basic examples:

When he first sees Juliet emerge from her room, Romeo exclaims, “But soft, what light through younder window breaks?” (2.1.45).

The fate of Shakespeare’s “star-crossed lovers” (1.0.6) is clear from the outset of the play.

If you were writing about more than one play, and it is not clear which play is being quoted, include an abbreviated title within the in-text citation:

A common trait of Shakespeare’s comic characters is the use of bawdy puns, as when Sampson announces that his “naked weapon is out” (*R&J*, 1.1.32).

NB. most modern and contemporary plays do not have line numbers, and are usually cited by page number, unlike the Shakespeare examples above.

For more complex examples, please see the *MLA Handbook*. 
ACADEMIC SKILLS
Academic Skills provides resources, workshops and individual tutorials to all students of the university, to help them improve their research, academic writing, referencing and other tasks assessed as part of their studies. You can bring a written draft to a Drop In or Individual Tutorial for support with argument, flow, clear writing and referencing questions.

For a list of resources, online interactive courses, workshops, drop ins, and individual tutorials, visit:

http://services.unimelb.edu.au/academicskills

The list of Academic Skills resources by skill type can be found here:

http://services.unimelb.edu.au/academicskills/all_resources

Academic Skills also provide specific workshops and resources for students who are non-native speakers of English. See:

http://services.unimelb.edu.au/academicskills/english_as_a_second_language.

SOCIAL MEDIA
The University has developed common sense guidelines for the effective and appropriate use of social media, and to protect students and staff from undesirable outcomes arising from misuse or uninformed use. The guidelines can be found at: https://socialmedia.unimelb.edu.au/resources/social-media-guidelines.

OTHER RESOURCES


A useful resource for postgraduate students.

