This guide will help you when you need to…

- Find a copy of the Australian Guide to Legal Citation
- Cite a case
- Cite an Act
- Cite a journal article
- Cite a book
- Create a reference list or bibliography

This is a quick guide to the referencing conventions explained in the Australian Guide to Legal Citation (AGLC).

- Within the ECU School of Law and Justice, you may be required to follow either the AGLC style, or the American Psychological Association (APA) style.
- Your lecturer will always nominate the referencing style to be used in your unit outline.
- As a general rule, all LLB subjects use the AGLC, whereas most Justice and most Business Law subjects use the APA style.
- For information on using in-text referencing (the APA style) for legal citations, consult the ECU Referencing Guide, available from the bookshop, or the library website.

I need to… find a copy of the Australian Guide to Legal Citation.

Choose from the following options to get a copy of the AGLC -

1. Purchase a copy from the ECU Bookshop

Note – the free online version of the AGLC cannot be printed.

I need to… cite a case.

A case citation looks like this –

Northern Sandblasting Pty Ltd v Harris (1997) 188 CLR 313

1. In your assignment, refer to the case name only, and add a footnote after the case name.

   In Northern Sandblasting Pty Ltd v Harris\(^1\) the High Court held that the landlord was in breach of a contractual duty of care owed to the tenants and to their family.

2. In the footnote, enter the citation only. If you are referring to a particular passage, add a “pinpoint reference”. A pinpoint reference is the actual page of the judgment you are referring to, as distinct from the starting page.

   If the next footnote refers to the same case, use Ibid. Note the pinpoint page if necessary.

   \(^1\) (1997) 188 CLR 313, 334.

   \(^2\) Ibid 340.

3. In the bibliography, enter the complete citation – both case name and citation. Don’t enter any pinpoint references.

   Northern Sandblasting Pty Ltd v Harris (1997) 188 CLR 313
I need to... **cite an Act.**

An Act citation looks like this –

Native Title Act 1993 (Cth) s 223

1. **In your assignment** when referring to the Act for the first time, write the full citation.

   ... by virtue of s 10(2) of the Legal Profession Practice Act 1958 (Vic).

2. **In the footnote** enter the citation, and the section number if necessary. Often you will be able to refer to all the details of the Act in the text of your essay, so there will be no need for a footnote. Ibid is not used for legislation.

   1 Legal Profession Practice Act 1958 (Vic) s 10(2).

3. **In the bibliography** enter the citation for the Act as a whole. Don’t enter any section numbers.

   Legal Profession Practice Act 1958 (Vic)

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I need to... **cite a journal article.**

A journal article citation looks like this –


1. **In your assignment** refer to the article, and add a footnote after that reference.

   Burmester argues that states should be more formally involved in foreign policy.¹

2. **In the footnote** enter the full citation, with a pinpoint reference where necessary.

   If the next footnote refers to the same article, use Ibid.


   ² Ibid 261.

3. **In the bibliography** enter the article citation, but with the surname first.

I need to… cite a book.

A book citation looks like this –

1. **In your assignment** refer to the book, and add a footnote after that reference.

   Hanks notes\(^1\) that the High Court has expanded Commonwealth powers to interfere with property interests, independently of the “just terms” provisions in s 51(xxxi) of the Constitution.

2. **In the footnote** enter the full citation, with a pinpoint reference where necessary.

   \(^1\) Peter Hanks, *Constitutional Law in Australia* (2nd ed, 1996) 500.

3. **In the bibliography** enter the citation, but with the surname first.

   Hanks, Peter, *Constitutional Law in Australia* (2nd ed, 1996)

I need to… create a reference list or bibliography.

A reference list – is a list of references you have cited in the body of your assignment.

A bibliography – is a list of all the material you have read while researching your assignment, even if you haven’t cited all of them in your assignment.

The *Australian Guide to Legal Citation* has a section on bibliographies in your work.\(^1\)

To avoid plagiarism, the ECU School of Law and Justice recommends you be very cautious about including any materials in your bibliography that you haven’t cited in your assignment.

Your reference list or bibliography should be divided into the following lists –

1. Articles/Books/Reports
2. Case Law
3. Legislation
4. Treaties
5. Other Sources

Within each list, arrange the sources alphabetically by author, by the first party to the case, or by the first word in the Act title.

For more information or clarification…

Consult the *Australian Guide to Legal Citation* (3rd ed, 2010).

For information on using in-text referencing (the APA style) for legal citations, consult the *ECU Referencing Guide*, available on the library web site.

\(^1\) *Australian Guide to Legal Citation* (3rd ed, 2010) 33.