



## Blue Book Tips

### Tackling the Blue Book:

- The front cover and back cover of the Blue Book help with quick references for the Blue Book and identify where each rule can be found. It is best to identify what type of document you are citing in order to reduce stress.
- Beginning p. 341 is where you can see how to abbreviate all the necessary information in your references and citations.
- In Appendix D of the APA Manual (5<sup>th</sup> ed.), p. 397 is the beginning of References to Legal Materials. This is the APA's brief explanations on how to cite common legal references.

Statutes – Begins on p. 101 of the Blue Book, Rule 12 (R12) and APA p. 403 – In the act, you will be able to identify whether a code is an official or unofficial code by looking for U.S.C and either U.S.C.A. or U.S.C.S. Statutes of official federal codes are identified with the *United States Code* (U.S.C.). Unofficial codes are identified with the *United States Code Annotated* (U.S.C.A.) and the *United States Code Service* (U.S.C.S.).

- Official Code - National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 § 102, 42 U.S.C. § 4332 (2000).
  1. In text citation should have the name of the statute and year – (National Environment Policy Act [NEPA], 2000) = (Short name of statute [acronym of name], year of statute was passed).
- Unofficial Code – Parking Authority Law, PA. Stat. Ann. tit. 53, § 342 (West 2001).
  1. (Parking Authority Law [PAL], 2001).

Legislative Material – Begins p. 114 (R13) and APA p. 405

- Federal Bill (unenacted) – Privacy Protection Act of 1998, H.R. 3224, 105<sup>th</sup> Cong. § 2(a) (1998).

Federal Bill (enacted) – S. Res. 107, 103d Cong., 139 Cong. Rec. 5826 (1993) (enacted).

1. Senate = S.

House of Representatives = H.R.

- State Bill – H.R. 124, 179<sup>th</sup> Leg., 1<sup>st</sup> Spec. Sess. (Pa. 1995).

Court Cases – Examples on p. 8-11.

- Tennessee v. Lane, 124 S. Ct. 1978, 1980 (2004).
  1. Citation – (Tennessee v. Lane, 2004).  
(Case name, year)
- Chaudhary v. Gen. Motors Corp., 649 P. 2d 224 (Cal. 1982).

The state should be properly abbreviated from where the case took place.

#### Additional Resources

The M. G. Gallagher Law Library Web page: <http://lib.law.washington.edu/>

- Blue Book 101:  
<http://lib.law.washington.edu/ref/bluebook101.html>
- Blue Book 101 has a PowerPoint presentation to help explain the Blue Book in the *Blue Book and APA* section.
- Use the Gallagher Law Library if you have any questions not answered in the Blue Book.
- Mary Whisner (Gallagher Law Librarian) – “Write out your citations as you see professionals writing them.” This means you can write how you would see the source written on government web pages or how they are written in professional journals.