

An 8-Week Progression Through Citation Made Simple (focusing on cases, statutes, and quotations)

WEEK 1

Overview—Legal citation and The Bluebook generally

Pages 1-9

Part One: Getting Started

- Ch. 1—Why Learn the Bluebook?
- Ch. 2—Why Proper Citation Matters
- Ch. 3—This Book’s Approach
- Ch. 4—The Point of the Bluebook’s Rules
- Ch. 5—Minor Errors and Major Errors
- Ch. 6—How the Bluebook is Organized
- Ch. 7—Comparing the Bluepages & Whitepages



Pages 11-20

Part Two: Foundational Concepts

- Ch. 8—Citations v. References
- Ch. 9—Citation Sentences v. Citation Clauses
- Ch. 10—Full Citations v. Short Citations
- Ch. 11—Short Form for Case References
- Ch. 12—Examples

Corresponding Online Materials

- Video 1.1—Overview
- Video 1.2—How to Use the Videos and Quizzes
- Video 2.1—Foundational Concepts



WEEK 2

Citing to cases—Case names

Pages 21-45

Part Three: Full Citations to Cases

- Ch. 13—Three Parts to a Full Citation
- Ch. 14—Case Names—General Principles
- Ch. 15—Case Names—What to Omit ([Exercise 1](#))
- Ch. 16—Case Names—What to Abbreviate ([Exercise 2](#))
- Ch. 17—Case Names—Phrases to Abbreviate ([Exercises 3 & 4](#))
- Ch. 18—Abbreviate in Citations v. References ([Exercise 5](#))
- Ch. 19—“Problematic” Case Names



Corresponding Online Materials

- Video 3.1—Three Core Parts
- Video 3.2—Words to Omit ([Quiz 1](#))
- Video 3.3—Case Names: Words to Abbreviate ([Quiz 2](#))
- Video 3.4—Case Names: Phrases to Abbreviate ([Quiz 3](#))
- Video 3.5—Case Names: Abbreviations in Citations v. References ([Quiz 4](#))
- Video 3.6—Case Names: Guided Examples

WEEK 3

Citing to cases—(1) Reporters and (2) Court and date

[Pages 46-72](#)

Part Three: Full Citations to Cases

- Ch. 20—Understanding Reporters ([Exercise 6](#))
- Ch. 21—Reporter Information—What to Include ([Exercise 7](#))
- Ch. 22—More on Pincites—Star Paging
- Ch. 23—Reporter Info—Common Questions ([Exercise 8](#))
- Ch. 24—Strength of the Case—the Court & Date
- Ch. 25—Omitting the State or Court
- Ch. 26—Spacing When Abbreviating ([Exercises 9 & 10](#))
- Ch. 27—Add Punctuation to the End
- Ch. 28—Putting it all Together—Examples ([Exercise 11](#))

Corresponding Online Materials

- Video 3.7—Retrieval Information: Understanding Reporters
- Video 3.8—Retrieval Information: Details ([Quiz 5](#))
- Video 3.9—Strength of the Case (Court and Date) ([Quiz 6](#))
- Video 3.10—Spacing ([Quiz 7](#))

WEEK 4

Additional Considerations

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Part Three: Full Citations to Cases

- Ch. 29—Signals
- Ch. 30—Explanatory Parentheticals
- Ch. 31—Citing Concurring or Dissenting Opinion
- Ch. 32—Showing a Chain of Authority ([Exercise 12](#))
- Ch. 33—Prior & Subsequent History
- Ch. 34—Caution: Do Not Use the Citations in Cases as Examples

Corresponding Online Materials

- Video 3.11—Signals
- Video 3.12—Explanatory Parentheticals
- Video 3.13—Chain of Authority (and Quoting and Quote)

WEEK 5

Short Citations

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Part Four: Short Citation Forms

- Ch. 35—Introduction to Short Citations
- Ch. 36—Formatting Short Citations
- Ch. 37—Little Details with Short Citations
- Ch. 38—Short Forms for Case References
- Ch. 39—How to Join a Reference with a Citation
- Ch. 40—Examples of Long and Short Forms ([Exercise 13](#))

Corresponding Online Materials

- Video 4.1—Short Forms for Citations
- Video 4.2—Short Forms for References
- Video 4.3—Short Forms: Guided Examples ([Quiz 8](#))

WEEK 6

Parallel & String Citations

Unreported Cases

Public Domain Format

[Pages 109-117](#)

Part Five: Parallel Citations v. String Citations

- Ch. 41—Parallel Citations ([Exercise 14](#))
- Ch. 42—String Citations ([Exercise 15](#))

[Pages 119-129](#)

Part Six: Citing Unreported Cases

- Ch. 43—Full Citations to Unreported Cases ([Exercise 16](#))
- Ch. 44—Short Citations to Unreported Cases ([Exercise 17](#))

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Part Seven: Public Domain Format

- Ch. 45—What is Public Domain Citation Format?
- Ch. 46—Full Public Domain Citation Format
- Ch. 47—State-by-State Differences ([Exercise 18](#))
- Ch. 48—Short Form Public Domain Format

Corresponding Online Materials

- Video 5.1—Parallel Citations v. String Citations
- Video 5.2—Short Form for Parallel and String Citations ([Quiz 9](#))

WEEK 7

Citing to Statutes

[Pages 153-171](#)

Book Part Nine: Citing to Statutes

- Ch. 52—General Information about Statutes
- Ch. 53—Federal Statutes: Full Citations
- Ch. 54—Federal Statutes: Short Citations ([Exercise 20](#))
- Ch. 55—State Statutes: Full Citations
- Ch. 56—State Statutes: Short Citations ([Exercise 21](#))
- Ch. 57—Citing to Statutes Online
- Ch. 58—Rules Table for Citing to Statutes

Corresponding Online Materials

- Videos and quizzes about citing to statutes will be added August 1, 2026.

WEEK 8

Quotations

Common Mistakes in Case Citations

[Pages 143-151; 221-225](#)

Book Part Eight: Quotations

- Ch. 49—General Rules for Quotations
- Ch. 50—Block Quotes
- Ch. 51—Quoting a Quote ([Exercise 19](#))

Book Part Sixteen: Common Citation Mistakes

- Ch. 69—Common Mistakes ([Exercise 25](#))

Corresponding Online Materials

- Video 8.1—General Rules
- Video 8.2—Quoting a Quote

- Video 8.3—Block Quotes ([Quiz 11](#))
- Video 9.1—Examples of Common Mistakes ([Quiz 12](#))
- **Turn in your Certificate of Completion**

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

The above schedule focuses just on case citations, statutory citations, and quotations, because it is crucial to learn these topics well in your first semester of legal writing. Cases and statutes are the most-commonly-cited sources in legal writing, with the most rules to learn. Master those topics first. Then, review Citation Made Simple's table of contents to see the additional topics and sources it covers in Parts Ten through Fifteen. As you move forward, read any chapters that become applicable. For example, if you need to cite to a regulation or a law review article, first read the applicable chapters in Citation Made Simple. Starting with Citation Made Simple will always help you learn The Bluebook's rules more easily and efficiently.