

BLUEBOOK (21st edition) SECRETS

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1. Will I use the entire Bluebook?

Answer: No. In a law firm, government, or business setting, 98% of the time you will use the Bluepages, some of the Tables, the index, the last page, and the back cover. The other 2% of the time you will use the Whitepages for citation questions not answered in the Bluepages.

2. What is so important about Table 1?

Answer: Table 1 (p. 227) is not just for citation. It lists the names of the courts in each jurisdiction in the United States, as well as the names of the case reporters, statutes, administrative rule compilations, and other publications for those jurisdictions.

3. Will I use *italics* or underlining?

Answer: Italics. Most attorneys and courts now use italics for case names, titles of books, introductory signals, and the other items listed in Rule B2.

4. For what will I use the Whitepages?

Answer: Use the Whitepages when the Bluepages do not provide an answer to your citation, parenthetical, or signal question. Rules (R) 1-9 are for general citation answers. Rules (R) 10-21 are for specific types of authority. Use the index to locate the relevant page.

Remember to use the ordinary typeface and italics for court documents and legal memoranda. *See* Rule B2. The Whitepages use the typeface for law review footnotes.

5. Where are the abbreviations? The Bluepage Tables (BT1 and BT2) and Tables 5-16 (T5-T16), pages 303-328.

6. What if I am submitting a document to a court? Check the local court rules to determine whether the court to which you are submitting your document has any special format or citation rules! Local rules take precedence over Bluebook rules. Start with Rule BT2 on Jurisdiction-Specific Citation Rules and Style Guides.

7. How do I cite to cases and statutes I find on Westlaw and Lexis?

Cases: Cite reported cases in Westlaw and Lexis as you would cite to an original print case, according to Rule B10. For pending or unreported cases found only on Westlaw and Lexis, follow Rule B10.1.4.

Constitutions and Statutes: Cite constitutions and codes according to Rules B11 and B12. You may find it useful to follow Rule 12.5 and give parenthetically the name of the database and information regarding the currency of the database found at the beginning of each code section: "Current through" Example: 11 U.S.C.S. §109 (LEXIS through Pub. L. No. 116-344) (excluding Pub. L. No. 116-283)).

8. How do I cite to other documents I find on the Internet?

Answer: Follow Rule B18. If the source is available in both HTML and PDF format, always cite to the PDF format. Use Rule 18.2 for more details about citing to web documents and websites.