

How to Cite Sources

The examples in this guide are taken from *The SBL Handbook of Style*.¹

1. Secondary Sources

Secondary sources should be cited with footnotes. At the end of the paper, a bibliography (works cited) must also be included which lists, in alphabetical order, every secondary source cited in the paper. Note that if you cite a source more than once in your paper, you will need to include a footnote every time you cite that source. The following examples show you how to format your footnotes and bibliography.

1.1. Books and Commentaries

Initial Footnote:

15. Charles H. Talbert, *Reading John: A Literary and Theological Commentary on the Fourth Gospel and the Johannine Epistles* (New York: Crossroad, 1992), 127.

Subsequent Footnote(s):

19. Talbert, *Reading John*, 22.

Bibliography Entry:

Talbert, Charles H. *Reading John: A Literary and Theological Commentary on the Fourth Gospel and the Johannine Epistles*. New York: Crossroad, 1992.

1.2. Chapters in an Edited Volume

Initial Footnote:

3. Harold W. Attridge, "Jewish Historiography," in *Early Judaism and Its Modern Interpreters*, ed. Robert A. Kraft and George W. E. Nickelsburg (Philadelphia: Fortress; Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1986), 311–43.

Subsequent Footnote(s):

6. Attridge, "Jewish Historiography," 314–17.

Bibliography Entry:

Attridge, Harold A. "Jewish Historiography." Pages 311–43 in *Early Judaism and Its Modern Interpreters*. Edited by Robert A. Kraft and George W. E. Nickelsburg. Philadelphia: Fortress; Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1986.

¹ *The SBL Handbook of Style: For Biblical Studies and Related Disciplines*, 2nd ed. (Atlanta: SBL Press, 2014), 73–74, 84, 86–87, 91–92, 94, 98. The citations of Josephus are based on the guidelines provided in the handbook. All other examples are taken verbatim from the handbook.

1.3. Journal Articles

Note that the designation “*JECS* 1 (1993): 159–74” in the example below indicates that the article is found on pages 159–74 of the first volume of the *Journal of Early Christian Studies* published in 1993.

Initial Footnote:

7. Blake Leyerle, “John Chrysostom on the Gaze,” *JECS* 1 (1993): 159–74.

Subsequent Footnote(s):

23. Leyerle, “John Chrysostom,” 161.

Bibliography Entry:

Leyerle, Blake. “John Chrysostom on the Gaze.” *JECS* 1 (1993): 159–74.

1.4. Encyclopedias and Dictionaries

This example applies to dictionaries in which each article has a different author. If the dictionary has only one author, treat it like a book (see 1.1 above). Note that the designation “*IDB* 1:418–32” means that the article is found on pages 418–32 of the first volume of *The Interpreter’s Dictionary of the Bible*.

Initial Footnote:

33. Krister Stendahl, “Biblical Theology, Contemporary,” *IDB* 1:418–32.

Subsequent Footnote(s):

36. Stendahl, “Biblical Theology,” 1:419.

Bibliography Entry:

Stendahl, Krister. “Biblical Theology, Contemporary.” *IDB* 1:418–32.

2. Primary Sources

Instead of using a footnote, simply cite the reference in parentheses at the end of the sentence.

In Luke, for example, it is the lawyer who cites the double command, whereas in Matthew and Mark it is Jesus (Matt 22:37–40; Mark 12:29–31).

Josephus describes a failed uprising led by a man named Theudas (*Ant.* 20.97–99).

If you are quoting the source, be sure to indicate the translation. For the Bible, simply include the translation after the verse citation. For other primary sources, include the translator’s last name in brackets and include the translation in the bibliography. If the translation is from the Loeb Classical Library, include LCL in the brackets.

From Luke’s point of view, “the kingdom of God is among you” (Luke 17:21 NRSV).

Theudas “persuaded the majority of the masses to take up their possessions and to follow him to the Jordan River” (Josephus, *Ant.* 20.97 [Feldman, LCL]).

Bibliography Entry:

Josephus. Translated by Henry St. J. Thackeray et al. 10 vols. LCL. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1926–1965.