

Dr Weiss's style sheet for undergraduate essays and theses: some suggestions

1. Do not put quotation marks around any Greek or Latin.
2. Use only Arabic numerals in citing the reference for any passage, e.g. *Iliad* 2.142. Only use Roman numerals when citing prefatory pages in books that employ them.
3. If you quote more than two lines of an original text (in any language) or wish to emphasize a particular line, use *block quotation*: i.e. indent the margins of the extract by 2 centimeters on both sides, e.g.:

They say that at Athens, when some man, who had lived among the Athenians with a high character for piety and wisdom, had given his evidence in public, and (as is the custom of the Greeks) was approaching the altar for the purpose of taking an oath in confirmation of it, all the judges cried out that he need not take the oath. When Greeks were unwilling to appear to imagine that the good faith of a well-proved man felt itself more bound by the formality of an oath than by the simple obligation of truth, shall we have a doubt as to what sort of man Gnaeus Pompeius has been in respect of his regard for the religious observance of laws and treaties? (*Pro Balbo* 12–13)

4. Never italicize Greek—unless, perhaps, it's part of an English book title (see 15 below); italicize transliterated Greek.
5. Only italicize Latin when you use it outside of block quotations, e.g. 'Cicero's use of *res* in this passage deserves discussion'.
6. When writing by hand underline where you would *italicize* on a computer.
7. When you quote a word from a particular passage in a Classical text you may quote it in the uninflected dictionary entry form—only quote it in the inflected form if that form is part of your argument (see 29 below).
8. Use *hyphens* to split words, *en dashes* to indicate numerical extent (e.g. 17–48), and *em dashes* to indicate anacolouthon (i.e. sense-breaks). (Search these terms online to find out how to produce them on your computer.) You may use a double hyphen in lieu of an em dash.
9. Do not capitalize first words of Ancient Greek or Latin sentences or lines of poetry: leave all Ancient Greek and Latin lowercase except for proper nouns and adjectives.
10. If you are describing the history of scholarship you may use the past tense, e.g.:

As recently as 2001 W. Thomas described the problem as 'insoluble' (103).

Otherwise use the present tense to indicate ongoing scholarly debate, e.g.:

W. Thomas declares the problem 'insoluble' (2001, 103).

11. Refer to a scholar by his or her first name (or initials, if that's how he or she presents himself in the document cited) then surname when you first refer to him or her, *then by surname only*.
12. Use the *author-date system* for references in the body of your text: *do not put mere references in footnotes*: e.g.:

Franks writes that Cicero's speeches from this period 'indicate just how much power Pompey had lost by this time' (2005, 54).

Here '54' indicates the page number in the 2005 document listed in the 'References cited' list at the end (to save a word you may also write 2005:54).

13. List only references cited, not books consulted. If you don't cite a book don't put it in the list.

14. If a scholar or thinker is particularly famous you need not cite the first name in your discussion, e.g. Wittgenstein, Mommsen, et al. (though you will supply that or an initial in the References list).

15. Cite books and journal titles in italics (Classical titles as well); cite articles or chapters within an edited book with quotation marks and roman type.

16. Use capital letters for the first word of such items (Classical titles as well), otherwise lowercase, except for proper nouns and adjectives.

17. You need not list the publisher and place of publication in your 'References cited': that may have been done in the past but it is no longer necessary. Here's the format:

Franks, R. 2005. *Pompey and Cicero*.

18. Use footnotes for extended discussion only (these are called 'content notes'), and not for mere references. It is a nuisance to interrupt reading with a note that will only tell the reader the source of a statement.

19. Always indicate what edition of a Classical text you are using and whose translation, if any, you are citing. Cite it in your Reference list by the editor or translator's name, not by the Classical author.

20. If you quote Greek and Latin you may leave it untranslated: just be consistent.

21. If you are using a publication with a variety of publication dates (e.g. later editions), indicate both in the body of your text and in your References cited:

Freud, S. 1979 [1913]. 'Essay on the imagination'.

22. The standard titles and abbreviations of Classical texts can be found in the prefatory matter to the *Oxford Classical Dictionary*.

23. When quoting the beginning of an English sentence you ought not preserve the capitalization, but if you wish to indicate it, do it like this:

Pinefield writes that '[t]hough there were exceptions, these performances never caught on with the general public' (1999, 82).

24. You need only indicate *gaps* in quoted sentences with ...: you need not indicate that an original sentence continues beyond your quotation of it.

25. Cite complete page and numbers, do not abbreviate: 216–259 instead of 216–59.

26. Avoid using 'ff.' wherever possible: try to be exact.

27. When you quote or cite a source you may (and will probably have to) alter any original contravention of any of these stylistic rules, e.g. caps in titles can become lowercase, etc.

28. You may use a single apostrophe to indicate possession with ancient names ending in s, e.g. Achilles' anger.

29. Do not 'weave' Greek and Latin into your English sentences (e.g. not 'Cicero idealized the ~~rem publicam~~ but *res publica*): either refer to a word in its dictionary form or quote a phrase, clause or sentence exactly as it appears in the text.

30. Remember that the word **its** is a possessive pronoun (like **his** or **hers**) and that **it's** is a contraction of 'it is'. If you wish to write in a formal register you will not use the word **it's**.

31. For a typical essay you do not need to identify any edition of any Classical text you cite; this is mandatory for theses.