

Notes and Bibliography

Different disciplines often use different citation styles. In History, it is most common to use the humanities citation style put out by the *Chicago Manual of Style*, i.e., notes and bibliography.

To begin, in the *Chicago Manual of Style* different types of sources are cited in different ways. Articles and books, for example, are distinct and cited somewhat differently in both notes and bibliography. (And the same could be said for numerous other types of sources, e.g., a book with three authors, a book with a translator, an edited volume, a newspaper article, a work within a work, a thesis, a website, etc.) A good summary for this can be found in a basic style guide for notes and bibliography that is hosted online by the Chicago Manual of Style. (To link to it, you can click [here](#).)

Again, I have included a couple of writing samples that could perhaps be useful. In the attached paper a student has created the letters of a fictional protagonist, basing what she is doing on an assortment of real primary sources that were published in an edited volume. Look at the footnotes, and you'll see how she annotates her citations in order to give validity to what she is doing while at the same time not encroaching or detracting from her fictional text. (Note the slight differences in style between the notes and the bibliography. Also, you can see that the bibliography at the end is formatted with single-spacing and a hanging indent for each entry—and if there were multiple sources, there would be an extra space between entries, as can be seen in the second attachment.)

As the sample creative paper shows, it often makes sense—and in your particular assignment would be very useful—to provide commentary within a footnote to explain how a source was used. (This is particularly important in a creative assignment like this where the relationship between the source material and your creative/fictional text will not always be apparent to the reader.) This sort of note is sometimes called a "discursive note" and more generally contains information that does not belong in the text. For example, say that you wanted to cite a couple of different sources at the same time and also add some commentary to the note to explicitly show the manner in which you're connecting your creative piece with the source material -- for example, highlighting the role of religious beliefs in Columbus's life -- you might do something like this:

1. In his writings Columbus maintains that all of his actions were a reflection of his deep religious faith and convictions. See, for example, Christopher Columbus, "Journal of the First Voyage of Columbus," in *The Journal of the First Voyage of Christopher Columbus (During his First Voyage, 1492-93), and Documents Relating to the Voyages of John Cabot and Gaspar Corte Real*, ed. Clements R. Markham (London: Hakluyt Society, 1893), 15-16; and Christopher Columbus, "Explanatory Matter Relating to the Book of Prophecies," in *Christopher Columbus: His Life, His Work, His Remains*, 3 vols., ed. John Boyd Thacher (New York and London: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1904), III, 660-664.

After a work is cited the first time, subsequent citations can be abbreviated. In your case, say that you cited p. 15 of Columbus's *Journal* in your first footnote and then came back to it a few footnotes later (say footnote no. 4) and cited p. 107. This is how these two footnotes might look:

1. Christopher Columbus, "Journal of the First Voyage of Columbus," in *The Journal of the First Voyage of Christopher Columbus (During his First Voyage, 1492-93), and Documents Relating to the Voyages of John Cabot and Gaspar Corte Real*, ed. and trans. Clements R. Markham (London: Hakluyt Society, 1893), 15.

4. Columbus, "Journal of the First Voyage," 107.

You should know that there is no hard and fast rule as to how you abbreviate a title for the shortened citation. You just use your judgment to make sure that it will be clear to the reader. (This is particularly the case when you cite more than one work from the same author.)

Ideally, you shouldn't think of the footnotes as burdens, but rather, as a way to highlight the extent of your research and the manner in which your creative ideas are in dialogue with the primary source material. (Also, MS Word -- and really any word processing program -- will do all of the work for you in terms of placement. For example, here is an [online clip](#), showing how this is done in MS Word 2010.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions. I look forward to reading your papers!

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