It matters (really)

Correct referencing is an important part of academic work.

It enables us to build on the ideas of others, making it clear where their ideas and words come from, and also making it clear what work is our own.

SBL Style Guide
For use in the School of Theology

2026

What's a scholarly source?

Credible and academically rigorous and usually have been peer-reviewed and published by reputable organisations

✔ book

✔ journal article

✔ chapter of an edited book

✔ thesis

✖ blog post

✖ informal internet article

✖ course notes

✖ social media posts

✖ ChatGPT etc

What needs to be referenced? (avoiding plagiarism)

✔ quotes from a source

✔ ideas from a source

✘ our own ideas

✘ "common knowledge'

How to reference

1. Insert a **footnote** (automatic formatting) with the source, including page number.

2. List the source in the **bibliography**

You format 1 and 2 differently!

Book with one author

Bibliography Reference

Author's Surname, First Name(s). *Title*. Publisher Name, Year Published.

Example A:

Start with the author's name. The author's surname should appear first.

Full stops after each piece of information: Author. Title. Publishing details.

There are no page numbers in the

Torrance, Thomas F. *Space, Time and Resurrection*. T&T Clark, 2019.

Book titles should always be in *italics*.

Footnote Reference

Author's First Name(s) Surname, *Title* (Publisher Name, Year Published), Page Number.

Author's first name appears first.

Like a sentence, each piece of information in a footnote is separated by commas, not full stops.

Thomas F. Torrance, *Space, Time and Resurrection* (T&T Clark, 2019), 45.

No comma before the brackets.

Publishing details are in brackets.

Include the page number or range of pages cited in your essay. Finish the reference with a full stop.

Shortened Footnote

Author's Surname, *Shortened Version of Title*, Page(s).

Example A:

No publishing details, only the pages number(s).

Torrance, *Space, Time and Resurrection*, 121.

Surname only.

If the title is long, you can shorten it.

Example B:

DeSilva, *Galatians*, 120.

Articles (in print and electronic)

Bibliography Reference

Author's Surname, First Name(s). "Article Title." *Journal Name* Volume Number (Year): Article

       Page Range.

Example A:

The title of the journal should be in italics. In some cases, the title can be abbreviated (see SBL Handbook 6.3.1)

Unlike books, the title of articles should not be in italics. The title of articles should be in quotation marks.

Date is included in brackets.

Pritchard, Sheila. "Wells and Fences: The Risk of Spiritual Growth." *Stimulus* 7.4 (1999): 24–26.

Volume number of the journal. Only include an issue number if the journal is not paginated consecutively (as is the case here)

Include a colon after the date and before the page numbers.

The page range of the *full* article as it appears in the journal.

Footnote Reference

Author's First Name(s) Surname, "Article Title," *Journal Name* Volume Number (Year): Page Number.

Example A:

Author's First Name appears before their surname

Sheila Pritchard, "Wells and Fences: The Risk of Spiritual Growth," *Stimulus* 7.4 (1999): 24.

Note the commas (rather than full stops). A footnote is like a continuous sentence.

Specific page number(s) being referenced.

Chapter in an edited book

Bibliography Reference

Author's Surname, First Name. "Title in Chapter." Page range in *Title of Book*. Edited by Editors
First Name and Surname. Publisher, Date.

Example:

Gerson, Lloyd. "The Perennial Value of Platonism," Pages 13-33 in *Christian Platonism: A
History.* Edited by Alexander Hampton and John Peter Kenney. Cambridge University
Press, 2021.

Include the page range of the chapter in the book.

Include the author(s) or editor(s) of the book.

Footnote Reference

Author's First Name and Surname, "Title of Chapter," in *Title of Book*, ==ed(s).== Editor(s) First Name and Surname (Publisher, Date), Page Number(s).

Example:

Lloyd Gerson, "The Perennial Value of Platonism," in *Christian Platonism: A ==History, eds.==* Alexander Hampton and John Peter Kenney (Cambridge University Press, 2021), 27.

Shortened Footnote

Author's Surname, "Shortened Title of Chapter," Page Number(s).

Example:

Gerson, "The Perennial Value of Platonism," 28.

How am I going to remember all that?

You don't need to!
Use the guide (please)

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