

Citing Scripture



The American Psychological Association (APA), Chicago & Turabian, and Modern Language Association (MLA) style guides show you how to properly cite sources for your academic papers. Throughout this handout, citation guide editions are listed and the corresponding section from the referenced handbook is listed in parentheses. While this handout focuses on the proper citation of LDS scripture, remember to always tailor your work to your audience and assignment.

General Formatting Tips

As a general guideline, consult your instructor if you are unsure which abbreviated form of a book from the sacred works is appropriate for in-text citations, or use the abbreviations listed alongside the books in the front of both the Bible and the Book of Mormon.

Note that as the Bible and the Book of Mormon are sacred classical works, the convention of italicizing titles of books does not apply. In all citations, do not italicize the titles of these works nor the name of the version.

APA Format (based on the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, Sixth Edition*)

In-Text Citations (6.18): For the required in-text citation, cite the source, book, chapter, and verse. Identify in your first citation the version of the Bible or give the name of the Book of Mormon; in subsequent citations, list only the book, chapter, and verse. As the Bible has different versions, the version name will follow the reference. However, the title of the Book of Mormon will go before the reference, as it does not have more than one version. Do not use a comma to separate reference from source.

Example: (1 Cor. 13:1 King James Version) then (2 Cor. 2:6)
(The Book of Mormon 1 Ne. 3:7) then (2 Ne. 4:16)

Works Cited Format: APA format does not require classical religious works, such as the Bible or Book of Mormon, to be listed in your bibliography.

Chicago & Turabian (based on *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, 8th Edition*)

In-Text Citations (19.5.2): For your first in-text citation, include the abbreviated name of the book without a period, then the chapter and verse number. Separate the reference from the title or edition using a comma; however, if employing a comma in order to cite different verses from within the same chapter, place the title or edition name within brackets. If you are consistently using the same source, you need only list that once in the first citation. Following citations may exclude it.

Example: (1 Ne 3:7, The Book of Mormon)
(1 Thess 4:11, King James Version) OR (1 Thess 4:11, KJV)

(1 Thess 4:11, 5:2-5, 5:14 [King James Version]) OR (1 Thess 4:11, 5:2-5, 5:14 [KJV])

Works Cited Format (16.4.3.1, 17.5.2): Cite the Bible and sacred works in footnotes, endnotes, or parenthetical notes, but you do not need to include such works in a bibliography. If using footnotes, place the superscript directly following the sentence containing the cited information and outside of the period. The footnote will follow the following format: Title or Version. Editor(s). City of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication.

Example (within text): Nephi exhorts us to go and do.¹

Example (corresponding footnote at the bottom of the page): ¹The Book of Mormon. Ed. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Salt Lake City: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2006.

MLA Format (based on the *MLA Handbook, Eighth Edition*)

In-Text Citations (3.3.2, 2.3): For the in-text citation, state the first element of the works cited entry, typically the title of the edition used. The title will only be italicized if you are referring to a specific published edition (e.g., *New Jerusalem Bible*). After the initial element, provide the name of the book, chapter, and verse numbers. Subsequent citations of the same source require you only to give the book, chapter, and verse. Use a period to separate the chapter and verse.

Example: (The Holy Bible, Rev. 4.6-8) and later only (Rev. 5.7-9)
(The Book of Mormon, 1 Ne. 3.7) and later only (1 Ne. 3.9)

Works Cited Format (5.5.10): As a general rule, you will include the title, editor/translator, city of publication, publisher, year of publication, and finally, medium of publication. The title should be italicized. Specify the Bible version used at the end of the entry.

Example:

The Bible. Authorized King James Version, general editor, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Salt Lake City: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2000. Print.

The Book of Mormon. Ed. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Salt Lake City: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2006. Print.

The Holy Bible. Ed. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Salt Lake City: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2013. Web. Authorized King James Vers.

Other Helpful Resources:

The SBL Handbook of Style, 1999, edited by Patrick H. Alexander and Society of Biblical Literature.