

Congress Project Legislative Histories

Footnote and Citation Guide

This document provides an overview for how to employ footnotes and cite sources for Professor Madonna's Spring POLS 4105 and POLS 4790H courses. Please note, footnotes and citation styles rarely have a significant impact on a paper's grade in any of my courses. However, learning to follow them will be of use to students as they progress in their scholarly careers.

Many style guides discourage the usage of lengthy footnotes or endnotes (see e.g. [MLA style guide here](#); APA [style guide here](#)). In contrast, their usage is more permissive within political science and legal writing (see e.g. the [American Political Science Association style guide here](#)). For this project students are encouraged to employ footnotes for two purposes: (1) for citing media and/or newspaper sources and (2) providing contextual information.

Those two purposes are discussed in greater detail below.

1. Citations

Footnotes should be used for citing newspaper, media sources and press releases. Links to other information about Congress (i.e. bill text, votes, etc.) should also be cited in footnotes. If there's an author and/or hyperlink, please list it. The citation should look like this:

Jones, Kevin. 2018. "Here's a Newspaper Story," *The Washington Post*, May 1.
www.hyperlink.com

See the following paragraph for examples:

In justification of not issuing a waiver, President Donald Trump (R-NY) stated that "we have a lot of shippers and a lot of people...who work in the shipping industry that don't want the Jones Act lifted."¹ While the Jones Act provides protectionist benefits to Americans in the shipping industry, those in the industry argued it did not hinder the relief effort. The owner of a prominent U.S. shipping company, Thomas Crowley, argued Puerto Rico was not "being hampered by the existent of the Jones Act."² Crowley and others maintained the bigger problem facing Puerto Rico was getting goods already

¹ Andrews, Natalie and Paul Page. 2017. "Trump Weighs Waiving Law Barring Foreign Ships from Delivering Aid to Puerto Rico." *The Wall Street Journal*, September 27. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/lawmakers-seek-waiver-of-law-barring-foreign-ships-from-delivering-aid-to-puerto-rico-1506529999>

² Mufson, Steven. 2018. "Trump just Lifted Shipping Restrictions for Puerto Rico. But the Real Challenge Just Started." *The Washington Post*, September 28. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2017/09/28/trump-just-lifted-shipping-restrictions-for-puerto-rico-but-the-real-challenge-just-started/>

delivered to those in need. Many media sources collaborated this argument, noting there were substantial problem unloading ships due to Puerto Rico's damaged infrastructure.³

Students are encouraged to diversity their media sources and not cite one source across multiple sentences. However, if this does happen, students are encouraged to simply footnote the last sentence and credit the authors there. Usage of "ibid" is not necessary.

In addition to footnotes, students should include a separate "Citations" section for scholarly sources. Please provide a page break before the start of this final section.

Scholarly sources (anything you'd find off google scholar), Committee Reports, CRS Reports and CQ Almanac should all be cited parenthetically (i.e. within the text and in the separate "Citations" section).

For parenthetical citations, give me the author/authors, year and page number (if there's a direct quote). For example: Johnson and Allen (2017, 12) have argued "the passage of this law has significantly impacted state budgets."

Scholarly articles should be cited in the following way:

Lastname, Firstname. Year. "Article Title." *Journal Title* Volume#(Issue #): First page-last page.

Scholarly books should be cited in the following way:

Lastname, Firstname. Year. *Book Title*. Publisher City, Publisher State Code: Publisher Name

For *CQ Almanac*, give me *CQ Almanac* and the year. For example:

Senator Chris Dodd (D-CT) introduced an amendment to halt the purchase of goods from South Africa's state-owned companies, but Dole criticized the amendment because the US had recently won a grain contract, precisely because South Africa had retaliated through trade against Australia for introducing sanctions (CQ Almanac 1987).

Then, in your work cited, it should look like this:

CQ Almanac. 1987. "Hill Overrides Veto of South Africa Sanctions." *Congressional Quarterly Almanac* 42:259-373.

³ See Graham, David A. 2017. "Is the Jones Act Waiver All Politics?" The Atlantic, September 28. <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2017/09/jones-act-waiver-puerto-rico-trump/541398/>; Gillespie, Patrick, Rafael Romo and Maria Santana, 2017. "Puerto Rico aid is Trapped in Thousands of Shipping Containers." CNN, September 28. <https://www.cnn.com/2017/09/27/us/puerto-rico-aid-problem/index.html>.

With CRS reports, cite them parenthetically as if they were a traditional scholarly source. If there's an author, list the other. Otherwise, follow the CQ Almanac model as list CRS and the year (i.e. CRS 2007). Below is an example citation for a work cited section:

Heitshusen, Valerie. 2017. Parties Leaders in the United States Congress, 1789-2017. *Congressional Research Service Report RL30567*.

The *Congressional Record* is also parenthetical. It should take the following form: "Quote (Congressional Record, ## Congress, Month, Day, Year, Page #)." So, for example:

Senator Barry Goldwater (R-AZ) argued against the amendment: "Mr. President, I would like to suggest that we look at every amendment we have and ask ourselves, do we have to have this? [The] election is two years away. We do not have to start kissing this and rubbing that to get elected next time. And, thank God, I do not have to do it ever again (*Congressional Record*, 96th Congress, December 11, 1980, 16227)."

When referencing [voteview](#) in a legislative history, cite Poole and Rosenthal (1997) and provide a link to the figure in a footnote. For example:

"As Figure 1 from [voteview](#) demonstrates, the vote was partisan and ideological (Poole and Rosenthal 1997)."⁴

Here is the Poole and Rosenthal citation:

Poole, Keith and Howard Rosenthal. 1997. *Congress: A Political-Economic History of Roll Call Voting*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Students are encouraged to consult the [American Political Science Association style guide here](#) for additional context.

2. Contextual Information

Footnotes should also be used to supply additional contextual information. This information is generally used to explain the usage of a particularly statistic, acknowledge potential caveats to a point made in a sentence and/or direct readers to sources for additional information. As a general rule, students will want their paragraph to build towards a specific point. Footnotes should be used to provide contextual information that—if it was included in the main text of the paper—might distract from the main point of their paragraph.

For example, see the following paragraph about the Jones Act:

On September 20, 2017, Hurricane Maria struck Puerto Rico, a United States Territory. The Category 4 hurricane caused significant damage, knocking out the territory's

⁴ [Voteview.com](https://www.voteview.com/rollcall/RH1110953), 111th House, rnum #953 (Poole and Rosenthal 1997).
<https://www.voteview.com/rollcall/RH1110953>

electrical grid for almost an entire year and causing thousands of death (CRS 2018).⁵ Shortly after the hurricane struck, Puerto Rican politicians expressed concern that badly needed relief goods like fresh water and medical supplies would reach the territory in time. These concerns stemmed from a U.S. federal law that requires “all waterborne shipping between points in the United States be carried by vessels built in the [continental] United States (Frittelli 2003).” While the law, commonly called the “Jones Act,” is often waived in the aftermath of a national disaster, the Trump administration initially refused to do so. The decision was reversed days later and a ten-day waiver was granted, but the episode sparked a debate over the merits of the law.⁶

The main purpose of that paragraph was to provide an example illustrating the importance of the Jones Act. The first footnote listed (footnote #5) is used to explain why “thousands of deaths” was being used as opposed to a specific number. While ambiguities over death counts is an extremely important topic, including that information in the main paragraph would distract the reader from the paragraph’s main point. This paragraph is not about the damage caused by Hurricane Maria.

The second footnote (footnote #6) is used to contextualize the decision to issue a Jones Act waiver. Again, the purpose of the lead paragraph is to demonstrate the importance over the Jones Act. By stating that the Trump Administration initially refused to issue a waiver, the author is conveying that the Jones Act is so important it necessitates action on behalf of the President in wake of a national emergency. But additional information may be needed for some readers. Is this an event unique to the Trump administration? The inclusion of footnote six answers that question in the negative and provides the reader with an additional source they could consult for additional information. By including it in a footnote, it keeps the main focus of the paragraph on the importance of the Jones Act, as opposed to presidential actions.

⁵ Maria had built on damage to the electrical grid caused earlier in the month by Hurricane Irma (CRS 2018). The Puerto Rican government would estimate that over 1,400 deaths could be attributed to the hurricane. Nearly a year later the government would raise the death count to just under 3,000. See Robles, Frances, Kenan Davis, Sheri Fink and Sarah Almukhtar. 2017. “Official Toll in Puerto Rico: 64. Actual Deaths May Be 1,052.” *The New York Times*, December 9. <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/12/08/us/puerto-rico-hurricane-maria-death-toll.html>; Sanchez, Ray. 2018. “How Puerto Rico’s Death Toll Climbed from 64 to 2,975 in Hurricane Maria.” *CNN*, August 29. <https://www.cnn.com/2018/08/29/us/puerto-rico-growing-death-toll/index.html>

⁶ Jones Act waivers had been issued in the aftermath of previous hurricanes. The Bush administration had issued waivers after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The Obama administration issued a limited waiver after Hurricane Sandy. The Trump administration did so for Hurricane Harvey just weeks prior to Maria (Yglesias, Matthew. 2017. “The Jones Act, the Obscure 1920 Shipping Regulation Strangling Puerto Rico, Explained.” *Vox.com*, October 9. <https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2017/9/27/16373484/jones-act-puerto-rico>).