

The Writing Center



DLA: USA Code Citation, the Yellow Book CA

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Student Name:

Important Note

To get completion credit for this DLA, make sure you complete all the required activities. If you'd like help while working on a specific DLA, you can meet with a specialist at the Writing Center. Keep in mind that you might need to schedule a second appointment to review your work, check your understanding, and get your completion credit. You can only review **ONE** DLA per appointment. (Check the last section of this DLA for information on making your appointment and receiving completion credit for your work).

Objective

Now that you understand how to integrate a reference to your legal sources, you must learn the **exact** format for your legal references. The California state court system follows the California Style Manual, better known as the "Yellow Book." This book gives very specific rules on how to cite various legal sources, including federal codes and statutes. This activity illustrates how to cite federal codes and statutes following the Yellow Book format.

Understanding Federal Codes and Statutes in Yellow Book format

There are three codes for United States statutes, one official and two unofficial.

1. **United States Code:** This is the official code and should be the preferred citation when available. It is abbreviated U.S.C.
2. **United States Code Annotated:** One of the two unofficial codes, it is abbreviated U.S.C.A.
3. **United States Code Service:** The second unofficial code, it is abbreviated U.S.C.S.

Examples:

- ❖ (14 U.S.C. § 193.)
- ❖ (11 U.S.C.A. § 522.)
- ❖ (42 U.S.C.S § 1988.)

The California Style Manual General Rules for Citation of Federal Codes

1. When putting the citation within parenthesis, the title number appears first, followed by the abbreviation for the federal code and then the section symbol and number. Usually, the date of the code's enactment is not used, unless the code provision has been superseded or has been impacted in some way. If such is the case, include the year at the end of the citation in parentheses.

Example:

- ❖ 46 U.S.C. § 951 (repealed 11/23/98)

2. Federal code citations can only be abbreviated when contained within parentheses; no parentheses mean no abbreviation should be used.

Examples:

- ❖ 14 United States Code section 193.
- ❖ (14 U.S.C. § 193.)
- ❖ 11 United States Code Annotated section 522.
- ❖ (11 U.S.C.A. § 522.)
- ❖ 42 United States Code Service section 1988.
- ❖ (42 U.S.C.S. § 1988.)

Note: From the examples above, note the spacing within the parentheses. It should be spaced as follows:

([Title number] space [Abbreviated code] space [section symbol] space [section number] period)

If a date is being used, the format shown above should be used.

3. Code citations should not be italicized or underscored.

Special Citations

1. The codes for the Internal Revenue Service are contained within title 26 of the United States Code. This means that any citation referring to “26 U.S.C.” is in relation to the IRS. Consequently, the IRS has its own abbreviation, Int.Rev. Code. Once again, note the lack of a space between the ‘Int’ and ‘Rev’, but the space between ‘Rev’ and ‘Code’. All of the following citations refer to the same section of the Internal Revenue Code.

Examples:

- ❖ Internal Revenue Code section 217.
- ❖ (Int.Rev. Code § 217.)
- ❖ 26 United States Code section 217.
- ❖ (26 U.S.C. § 217.)

2. According to the Yellow Book, citations of the federal administrative rules and regulations published in the Code of Federal Regulations should be formatted as:

([Title], space [Volume number] space C.F.R. space [section symbol] space [section] space (year)period)

Examples:

- ❖ (Shipping, 46 C.F.R. § 221.1 (1998).)
- ❖ (Aeronautics and Space, 14 C.F.R. § 13.101 (1997).)

3. Providing a popular name for an act often assists in identification but is not required.

Example:

- ❖ Americans with Disability Act

Activities (approximately 1 hour)

Refer to the rules above and be prepared to explain your answers when you meet with a tutor. Please check off each box when you have completed the task.

□ 1. Citation Correction

Correct the following citations.

14 U.S.C. §193

(14 United States Code section 193)

26 United States Code section 217.

Section 10 in title 8 of the U.S.C.

(Title 36 of the United States Code section 112).

In 1998, the rules of shipping were contained in volume 46 of the Code of Federal Rules section 221.1.

□ 2. Review the DLA/Receive Completion Credit

1. Go to [EAB Navigate](#) and make an appointment (online or in-person).
2. Attend your session and be prepared to explain your understanding of the information you've learned in the DLA. Consider the main concept you learned and how you might use this in your future assignments/classes.
3. If your professor asks you to provide proof, you can review the "appointment summary report" through EAB Navigate (app or desktop). You will find all Writing Center appointments under "appointment summary reports" (app or desktop). Look for the summary report for your DLA appointment. This is where your writing specialist will indicate the title of your DLA and state whether it is "completed" or "not completed." If it is marked as "not completed," book a follow up appointment to complete.

Note: Appointment summary reports are also sent weekly to your instructor on record. If there is an issue, please contact us at writingcenter@mtsac.edu or (909) 274-5325.

If you are an individual with a disability and need a greater level of accessibility for any document in The Writing Center or on The Writing Center's website, please contact the Mt. SAC Accessible Resource Centers for Students, access@mtsac.edu, (909) 274-4290.

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