How to cite a case

Citing U.S. Supreme Court Decisions

REFERENCE LIST ENTRY

Basic Format

Note: The volume and page numbers refer to U.S. Reports. All reporting services include this information. Ignore the "Cite As" at the head of the page in Supreme Court Reporter, because this form of the citation is not used in APA style.

Example

TEXT CITATION

Basic Form
Name v. Name (Year)
(Name v. Name, Year)

Examples
The Supreme Court has held in United States v. Lane (1986) that misjoinder under Rule 8(b) is subject to harmless-error analysis.

The Supreme Court has held that misjoinder under Rule 8(b) is subject to harmless-error analysis (United States v. Lane, 1986).

Citing Decisions of Lower Federal Courts

REFERENCE LIST ENTRY

Basic Format
Name v. Name, Volume number Reporter abbreviation Page number (Court Name).

Reporter Abbreviations
F., F.2d or F.3d for Federal Reporter (circuit courts)

Examples

TEXT CITATION

Basic Form
Name v. Name (year ) or (Name v. Name, year)
How to cite a case

**Examples**

In Flibotte v. Pennsylvania Truck Lines, Inc. (1997), the Court of Appeals for the First Circuit held that it is appropriate for a judge to refuse to direct the verdict.

The Court of Appeals for the First Circuit has held that it is appropriate for a judge to refuse to direct the verdict (Flibotte v. Pennsylvania Truck Lines, Inc., 1997).

**Citing Florida Decisions**

**REFERENCE LIST ENTRY**

**Basic Form**

Name v. Name, Volume number Reporter abbreviation Page number (Court Name)

**Examples**

Swofford v. Richards Enters., Inc., 515 So. 2d 231 (Fla. 1987).
City of N. Miami v. Fla. Defenders of the Env't, 481 So. 2d 1196 (Fla. 1985).

**TEXT CITATION**

**Basic Form**

Name v. Name (Year) or (Name v. Name, Year)

**Examples**

In Silverleib v. Hebshie (1992), the Florida Court of Appeals held that an order for the removal of a sewer line is in the nature of an equitable order.
The Florida Court of Appeals held that an order for the removal of a sewer line is in the nature of an equitable order (Silverleib v. Hebshie 1992).