Citation Guide
For
Cases

Legal Research
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c2011
CHECKLIST FOR CITING CASES

- Case Names
  - Have you italicized or underlined the case Name?
    - Roe v. Wade
    - Roe v. Wade
  
  - Have you omitted all words required by Rule 10.2.1?
    - additional parties or actions
      - United States ex rel. Mayo v. Satan and His Friends
      - Rule 10.2.1(a)

- Procedural Phrases
  - In the Matter of Terrell Jones → in re Jones
  - State of North Carolina on the Relation of Wiley H. Taylor
  - State ex rel. Taylor
  - Rule 10.2.1(b)

- The
  - Southwest Engineering Company v. The United States
  - Rule 10.2.1(d)

- Descriptive terms
  - Robert Downey, Jr., Respondent v. Motor Vehicle Accident Indemnification Corporation, Appellant
  - Rule 10.2.1(e)

- Geographical Terms
  - State of North Carolina v. Phillips
  - Rule 10.2.1(f)

- Given names or initials of individuals
  - Robert Downey, Jr. v. Motor Vehicle Accident Indemnification Corporation
  - Rule 10.2.1(g)

- Business firm designations if other words indicate a business
  - Lexie v. Morakis Sons Industrial Painting Company, Incorporated
  - Rule 10.2.1(h)

- Have you abbreviated as necessary?
  - words in Rule 10.2.1(c)
  - Lexie v. Morakis Sons Industrial Painting Company Co.

  - Words in T. 6
  - Lexie v. Morakis Sons Industrial Indus. Painting Co.
• words in \text{T. 10} unless the geographical unit is a named party
• \text{New York Times Company} v. L.B. Sullivan \rightarrow \text{N.Y. Times Co. v. Sullivan}
• \text{Clinton v. District of Columbia} (geographic unit is the named party)
• \text{Rule 10.2.2}

• Party Names usually referred to by commonly known initials
• \text{NAACP v. City of Atlanta}
• \text{Browning v. Carolina Power & Light Co.} not \text{Browning v. CP&L}
• \text{Rule 10.2.1(c)}

• Have you \textbf{remembered not} to abbreviate the following?
  • geographical units named as parties
  • \text{Clinton v. District of Columbia}
  • \text{Rule 10.2.2}
  • \text{United States}
  • \text{United States v. Clinton} not \text{U.S. v. Clinton}
  • \text{Rule 10.2.2}

• Note:
  • If your citation is in a textual sentence,
  • abbreviate only the words listed in \textbf{Rule 10.2.1(c)}
  • The court held in \text{New York Times Company} v. L.B. Sullivan
  • The court held in \text{New York Times Co. v. Sullivan}

  • If your citation is in a citation sentence
  • abbreviate according to \textbf{Rule 10.2.1(c)} and \textbf{Rule 10.2.2}
  • \text{New York Times Company} v. L.B. Sullivan
  • \text{N.Y. Times Co. v. Sullivan}

• \textbf{Checklist for Case Location}

  • Have you put the volume number first?
    • \text{vol. 25 of North Carolina Reports}
    • 25 N.C.

  • Have you abbreviated the reporter name?
    • \text{United States Reports} \rightarrow \text{U.S.}
    • \text{South Eastern Reporter 2d Series} \rightarrow \text{S.E.2d}
    • \text{Federal Reporter 2d Series} \rightarrow \text{F.2d}
    • \textbf{Rule 10.3.2} \& \textbf{T. 1}

  • Have you closed adjacent single capitals
    • \text{N.C.} App. \rightarrow \text{N.C. App.}
    • \text{E.D. N.C.} \rightarrow \text{E.D.N.C.}
    • \textbf{Rule 6.1(a)}
Checklist for Court Information

- Are you citing from a Federal Reporter, a regional reporter, or a state reporter?
  - If you are citing to the United States Reports
    - You do not indicate the court
    - T.1
  - If you are citing to a federal reporter other than the United States Reports, have you included an abbreviation for the deciding court?
    - 249 F.3d 301 (4th Cir. 2001)
    - 139 F. Supp. 781 (W.D. La. 1956)
    - Rule 10.4(a) & T. 1
  - If you are citing to a state reporter other than the North Carolina Reports or the North Carolina Court of Appeals Reports, have you included an abbreviation for the deciding court?
    - 311 So. 2d 381 (Fla. Dist. Ct. App. 1975) ➔ Appellate Court
    - 311 So. 2d 623 (Fla. 1976) ➔ Supreme Court
    - Rule 10.4(b) & T. 1
  - If you are citing a North Carolina case to a North Carolina Court, have you provided a parallel citation?
    - 49 N.C. App. 475, 271 S.E.2d 760
    - Rule 10.3.1
    - Bluepages B4.1.3 (Practitioner's Notes), P. 10

Checklist for Date Information

- Is your case published in a reporter? If so, have you included the year of decision in your citation?
  - Rule 10.5(a)

Checklist for Parallel Citations

- Are you citing a North Carolina case?
  - If not, do not worry about parallel citations
  - Cite according to Rule 10.4(a), Rule 10.4(b), & T.1

- If you are citing to a North Carolina case, you need to provide parallel citations.
  - Look in T. 1 under North Carolina ➔ The table will tell you which reporters to cite and will give you the correct abbreviations for the reporters
  - List the state reporter before the regional reporter in a parallel cite
  - Remember you do not indicate the court if you are citing to the North Carolina Supreme Court Reports; you only give the abbreviation for the reporter ➔ N.C.
  - Remember to include the date of decision.