Citing Classical Texts

In-text citation of ancient sources, whether parenthetical or in footnotes or endnotes, does not include referring to page numbers, but rather using a standardized numbering system that ensures readers will be able to retrieve quoted material regardless of the version or translation used. For textual primary sources, please use the standardized book, chapter and paragraph numbering system as explained below with reference to the Chicago Manual of Style. The following example indicates the parts of a citation of Aristotle’s Metaphysics, book 3, chapter 2, paragraph 996b, line numbers 5 to 8. It corresponds to the following text image taken from Loeb Classical Library edition.

Arist., Metaph. 3.2.996b5–8

1. Chicago Manual of Style
   a. See sections 14.256-266 for specific examples relating to citing Classical Greek and Latin References

   b. Citing Classical poetry and plays, please refer to sections 14.267-268 on citing editions of classic English poems and plays. The following citation example is to Homer’s Odyssey, book 9, lines 102 to 110:

   Hom., Od. 9.102-110.

      i. Ancient drama may not have acts or scenes. As a result, refer only to line numbers as in the following example describing the play Seven Against Thebes by Aeschylus, lines 830 to 840:

   Aesch., Sept. 830-840.

   c. Citing Course Packs: see section 14.112 on “Contribution to a multiauthor book” as a reference point for building a citation to a course pack.


d. Inscriptions, Coins, and Images
   i. Epigraphic example refers to the Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum, volume 6, inscription number 930:

   CIL VI.930

   ii. Numismatic example refers to Roman Republican Coinage, coin number 231:

   RRC 231

   iii. Image citations can refer to the secondary source that reprints them or to the database (see section 14.271) where they are collected,

   1. Citation example from a book of images with Author's first and last name, Title of Book in italics, page numbering and figure/map/table number) see section 14.165:

   | 1 John G. Pedley, Greek Art and Archaeology, 167, fig. 6.32. |

   2. Citation example from a database with Artist/Creator Name (if known), Image Title in italics, Year of Creation, Museum/Repository, Name of Database, URL or Identification Number in parentheses):


   e. Capitalize Latin titles in sentence style, see section 11.59.

   f. See section 11.130- for information on transliterating Greek

2. Abbreviations of Greek and Latin author names and work titles use those recommended in the most recent edition of The Oxford Classical Dictionary. Abbreviations of periodical titles should follow the list in L’Année philologique. See also, Dictionary of bibliographic abbreviations found in the scholarship of classical studies and related disciplines.

3. The Chicago Manual of Style, in section 14.260, recommends describing the edition and translation used, along with any publication information, in a bibliography or in a footnote or endnote.