QUICKGUIDE: SBL STYLE*

COMPILED BY JUSTIN J. EVANS

PAPER FORMATTING

Margins and Tabs: Set uniform margins to 1 inch (2.54 cm) on all sides. Set tabs to one-half inch. [2.1]

Line Spacing: Double space all main text. For block quotations (five lines or more), single space, indent one-half inch, and do not use quotation marks [2.2]

Typeface: Use Times New Roman, 12-point font (this font family includes Greek and Hebrew characters). Footnotes and page numbers should be in 10-point font. [2.4, 2.9]

Paragraph Indentation: First paragraph of each new section/subsection should be aligned left, without indentation. All subsequent paragraphs within the section should be indented. [2.5]

Pagination: On the first page of the main text, place page number at the bottom center. On subsequent pages, place page number in the top right corner. For theses, place page number for the first page of each chapter at the bottom center. First page of appendices and bibliography should likewise have page number in the bottom center. Roman numerals should be used for front matter (table of contents, abbreviations, etc.). Do not place a page number on the title page. [2.3]

Headings and Subheadings:
- Primary heading: centered, all capital letters, long titles single-spaced
- First-level subheading: centered, bold, capitalized headline style
- Second-level subheading: centered, capitalized headline style (no bold)
- Third-level subheading: on left margin, bold, italics, capitalized headline style
- Fourth-level subheading: on left margin, capitalized headline style (no bold italics) [2.6]

Biblical References: Publication data for biblical versions should not be included in footnotes and bibliographies. Simply indicate the version in parentheses following the quote (e.g. NRSV, NIV, etc.). If only one version is cited throughout, include version after the first quotation only. “Now Ahab had seventy sons in Samaria” (2 Kgs 10:1 NRSV). [2.10]

Bibliography: Two-inch top margin. List all sources consulted in alphabetical order, with a blank line between single-spaced entries. [2.11]

CITATION EXAMPLES**

Commentary in a Series [6.4.9]


9 Allen, Jeremiah, 112.

Multi-Volume Commentary on a Single Biblical Book [6.4.9; 6.2.20]


9 Dahood, Psalms, 2:121.

* The formatting is keyed to Student Supplement for The SBL Handbook of Style (2nd ed.). Citation examples are all keyed to the full handbook.

** Each type of citation contains 3 examples: 1) full citation as it appears on the bibliography, 2) full citation as it appears in a footnote the first time a source is used, and 3) short-title citation as it appears in subsequent footnotes.
Book by a Single Author [6.2.1]


9 Talbert, *Reading John*, 22.

Book with One Editor [6.2.6]


Revised Edition [6.2.16]


Article in an Encyclopedia or Dictionary [6.3.6]


Article in a Lexicon or Theological Dictionary [6.3.7]


Journal Article [6.3.1]


9 Lim, “Not in Persuasive Words of Wisdom,” 143.

An Electronic Journal Article [6.3.10]


9 Kirk, “Karl Polanyi,” 186.