

1 Citing Government Documents

APA Citing Government Documents

The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation 18th ed., 2005
www.legalbluebook.com/

How to Cite the U.S. Constitution in APA Style by Chelsea Lee
<http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2010/06/how-to-cite-the-us-constitution-in-apa-style.html>

“... the Publication Manual (see Appendix 7.1: References to Legal Materials, pp. 216–224) comes directly from the Bluebook. Although the Publication Manual includes a variety of legal citation examples (cases, statutes, bills, and more), citing constitutions is not among them.

“First, if you simply want to make passing reference to the U.S. Constitution in an APA Style paper, you can mention it in text without a reference list entry.”

“However, if you are using some part of the U.S. Constitution as evidence to support a point you are making in your paper, you should construct the citation using Bluebook Rule 11, which covers federal and state constitutions.”

“All citations of the U.S. Constitution begin with U.S. Const., followed by the article, amendment, section, and/or clause numbers as relevant. The terms article, amendment, section, and clause are always abbreviated art., amend., §, and cl., respectively. Preamble is abbreviated pmb. (as in my opening quotation). Article and amendment numbers are given in Roman numerals (I, II, III); section and clause numbers are given in Arabic numerals (1, 2, 3). The Bluebook states that for parts of the Constitution currently in force, do not include a date. If you are referring to a part of the Constitution that has been repealed or amended, include the year that the part in question was repealed or amended in parentheses.”

CMS Citing Government Documents

CMS Manual Online via PPCC library webpages (may imply that the citation required appears as a footnote)
http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/16/ch14/ch14_sec292.html
“14.292Constitutions”

“In citations to constitutions, the article and amendment numbers appear in roman numerals; other subdivision numbers are in arabic. (For nonlegal style see 9.29.) In Bluebook style the name of the constitution is capitalized; other abbreviations are lowercased.”

“37. U.S. Const. art. I, § 4, cl. 2.
38. U.S. Const. amend. XIV, § 2.

2 Citing Government Documents

39. Ariz. Const. art. VII, § 5.”

40. Ark. Const. of 1868, art. III, § 2 (superseded 1874).

MLA Citing Government Documents

(see *The Everyday Writer*, p. 409)

How do I cite the US Constitution in MLA?

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/18/>

The 7th edition of the MLA handbook has this to say about citing the U.S. Constitution:

"In general, do not italicize or enclose in quotation marks the title of laws, acts, and similar documents in either the text or the list of works cited (Declaration of Independence, Constitution of the United States, Taft-Hartley Act). Such titles are usually abbreviated, and the works are cited by sections. The years are added if relevant" (205).

Because these directives aren't very specific, you can use the following example as a guide for the Works Cited entry:

U.S. Constitution. Art./Amend. XII, Sec. 3.

You need only provide either the article number or the amendment number as appropriate.

The complementary parenthetical citation is written as (US Const. amend. XII, sec. 3). You might also reference the U.S. Constitution in the sentence itself and only provide the amendment and section number in the parentheses at the end of the sentence.