Doncaster College Learning Resource Centres

Printed Sources

How do I reference a book?

Books with one author

Example of citation within the text – Paraphrasing

Newburn (2007) states that the death penalty was used quite often in the Middle Ages and for some time after. He goes on to say that in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, criminals were increasingly punished by being incarcerated in prison.

Example of citation within the text - Direct quote

Newburn (2007) writes “Capital punishment had been relatively common in the Middle Ages and for some time beyond but, as we have seen, was generally replaced by greater use of imprisonment in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries”

Example of how the reference for this source should appear:


Books with one author - points to note

The following format should be used when referencing books:

Surname, Initials. (Year) *Title of book*. Place of publication: Publisher.

- Within the reference, the book title should be italicised
- Place of publication is always the city/town not the country i.e. London, not UK
- The year is the date of publication, not a reprint date. Look out for these on the verso (back of the title page), they have no bearing on edition dates
- Anything other than a 1st edition e.g. 2nd, 3rd, 4th etc., needs to be included within the reference, and goes immediately after the title
- When quoting directly, “quotation marks” are used to distinguish a short quotation, usually no more than 2 lines in length
- Longer quotations should be indented and placed in a separate paragraph, you do not need quotation marks as well