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If you're looking for AGLC referencing examples that you can copy into your footnotes with confidence, this guide is for you. The Australian Guide to Legal Citation, in its fourth edition from 2018, sets the citation rules that Australian law schools expect in every assignment. Getting cases and legislation right matters more than students realise. Referencing errors tell your marker that you don't know the conventions of the profession, and that first impression costs marks early.

What the AGLC System Actually Is

AGLC4 is the citation manual published by the Melbourne University Law Review Association, and almost every Australian law school adopts it as the house style. The whole system runs on footnotes, not on author date citations inside the text. Every source you rely on gets a full citation the first time it appears in a footnote, a short form on every later mention, and your assignment closes with a bibliography divided into fixed categories. Footnote numbers go after the punctuation mark at the end of the sentence, never before it. Here's the flow to remember. Full first cite, short repeats, tidy bibliography. Once you've got that, you understand the skeleton of the system.

AGLC Referencing Examples for Reported Cases

A reported case is one published in an authorised law report series, and the formula never changes. Write the case name in italics, then the year in brackets, then the volume number, then the report series abbreviation, then the page the case starts on, then your pinpoint page after a comma. Here's the classic example: Mabo v Queensland (No 2) (1992) 175 CLR 1. Here 175 is the volume, CLR stands for the Commonwealth Law Reports, and 1 is the starting page. When you're pointing at a specific passage, add a

comma and the page number: Mabo v Queensland (No 2) (1992) 175 CLR 1, 42. Leave out the parties' first names, don't add full stops to v, and keep the full case name in italics.

Examples for Unreported and Medium Neutral Citations

Many recent cases have never appeared in a report series, so courts give them a medium neutral citation instead. The formula: case name in italics, year in square brackets, court abbreviation, decision number. Here's an illustrative example, not a real case: Lee v Nguyen [2021] NSWSC 214. Pinpoints for medium neutral citations go in square brackets as well: Lee v Nguyen [2021] NSWSC 214, [17]. The court abbreviations you'll see most often are HCA for the High Court of Australia, NSWCA for the New South Wales Court of Appeal, and VSC for the Supreme Court of Victoria. Where a case has both a medium neutral citation and a reported citation, AGLC prefers the reported one, so cite the report series version whenever it exists.

AGLC Referencing Examples for Legislation

Legislation follows its own simple pattern. Write the short title in italics, then the year, then the jurisdiction in brackets. For example: Competition and Consumer Act 2010 (Cth) s 18. Cth stands for Commonwealth. For state law it's the same pattern with the state abbreviation: Crimes Act 1958 (Vic) s 3. On the first mention, give the full title. After that you may use a shortened title in single quotation marks, for example the 'CCA', if you introduced it at the first mention. Sections use a lower case s, and a run of sections uses ss: Competition and Consumer Act 2010 (Cth) ss 18, 19. Parts, divisions and schedules become pt, div and sch, no full stops.

Repeat Citations: Ibid and the Short Form

Citing the full case name in every footnote would make your essay unreadable, so AGLC gives you two short forms. When the very next footnote cites the same source, use ibid, the Latin term for in the same place. If the pinpoint changes, add the new pinpoint after it: ibid 44. When a later footnote returns to a source cited earlier but not immediately before, use the shortened case name plus the original footnote number in brackets: Mabo (n 3) 42. That tells the reader to look back at footnote 3 for the full citation. This system only works if every first citation is complete, so never introduce a short form for a source you haven't cited in full first. Here's a shortcut: if you'd like an expert to format your footnote set, our assignment writing service applies these exact rules on every order.

Building Your AGLC Bibliography

Your bibliography isn't a copy of your footnotes. It lists every source once, grouped into fixed categories, and it never includes pinpoint pages. AGLC4 divides the bibliography into A Articles, Books and Reports; B Cases; C Legislation; D Treaties; and E Other. Cases go under B in alphabetical order with the full citation but no pinpoint: Mabo v Queensland (No 2) (1992) 175 CLR 1. Legislation goes under C, also without pinpoints: Competition and Consumer Act 2010 (Cth). Journal articles and books go under A with the author name first. If you didn't cite it, don't list it.

Four Mistakes That Cost Law Students Marks

First, students carry Harvard or APA habits into law essays and put author date citations in the text. Law uses footnotes, with no exception. Second, they italicise the wrong words or forget italics entirely on case and Act names. Third, they write pinpoint pages inside the bibliography, where pinpoints never belong. Fourth, they invent plausible looking citations for sources they've never read. Markers do check citations, and a fabricated reference is an academic integrity problem, not a formatting slip. If you'd like a second pair of eyes, our assignment writing team checks every footnote against the AGLC4 rules, and you can request a free quote

on our contact page.

AGLC referencing doesn't reward memory. It rewards consistency. Learn the four formulas for reported cases, medium neutral citations, legislation, and repeat short forms. Apply them the same way in every footnote and always check your italics before you submit. Do that and your referencing becomes invisible to the marker, which is exactly what good referencing should be.

Key visual, in brief:

An AGLC case citation has five parts: case name, year, volume, report series abbreviation, and first page.