

*A Sample Paper with Works Cited: Jason Aftosmis, Stanford, Majors' Seminar, Winter 2007*

In as few words as possible, this paper will explore essential conventions of modern classical scholarship.<sup>1</sup> For the sake of space, it is not double-spaced, though yours will be. Following his description of religious practices in the *Ab Urbe Condita*, Livy includes a list of prodigies (43.13.1-2):

An inset, extended portion of a prose passage, always *single-spaced*. It is in an 11 pt. version of your normal 12 pt. font. If from verse, it would look like verse, line breaks and all. The people commonly think that the gods do not send portents. My consciousness (*animus*)—I cannot explain it—becomes ancient. Notice how Livy's Latin is in italics.

After such a passage the paragraph resumes flush left; that is, unindented. Be consistent.

Ancient works are interesting, to be sure, but so too are modern ones. Citing a short bit of poetry, we might do it as follows. In his poem "The Kimono," James Merrill writes, "You hide a smile and quote a text: / Desires ungratified / Persist from one life to the next" (7-9). You can give the verse numbers just like that for ancient texts too, without need of a footnote, provided that your context is clear. To footnote a quotation, you might write, "it goes just like this, with the order of: first, period; next, closing quotation mark; finally, footnote number."<sup>2</sup>

Now that we know about citing both prose and verse, let us turn to argument structure, particularly the thoughts of our dear friend Nabokov. Vlad states that "Style and structure are the essence of a book; great ideas are hogwash."<sup>3</sup> Strongly stated though it is—let us hope to have great ideas as well!—consider also the analogy of Socrates in Plato's *Phaedrus* (264c):

But I think you would assert this, at any rate: that every speech, just like an animal, must be put together to have a certain body of its own, so as to be neither headless, nor footless but to have middle parts and end parts, written suitably to each other and to the whole.<sup>4</sup>

After further dialogue with *Phaedrus*, Socrates continues (265d):

For him whose sight comprehends things dispersed in many places to lead them into one *idea*, so that by defining each thing, he makes clear what, on each occasion, he wishes to teach about.... [T]he speech was able through these things to say that which is distinct, at any rate, and itself in agreement with itself.

What a wonderful, and wonderfully relevant, dialogue the *Phaedrus* is.

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1 Nice, normal footnote after a period. And how to refer to a work listed in your bibliography? Cf. Bakker 1997b: 12.

2 The footnote marker goes outside of the quotations marks and period. Here you might say: see further *Il.* 14.222-38 for the case of Hera. To refer to a *whole* text, write something like: see Mitchell 2023. Have I mentioned to be consistent and careful in your presentation?

3 Notice that, according to the *CMS*, no comma follows 'that' when introducing a quotation. Footnotes have periods.

4 Footnote about such a passage is usually placed thus. This translation from the *Phaedrus*, and those that follow, are those of Nichols 1998.

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