

## Example fake mini-essay using BU's version of the Harvard Referencing Style

### The Mickey Mouse Mystery

During May 2016, international news stories claimed that Mickey Mouse is dead (BBC 2016; Burgundy 2016). The Mickey Mouse mystery raises two complex questions. Firstly, did Mickey Mouse ever live? Secondly, if so, is he now deceased (Pixar 2014)? This investigation will address the question of whether Mickey Mouse ever lived and debate whether he is now dead.

Historically, De Ville's claim that Mickey Mouse is "a cartoon character, not a real animal" (DeVille 1996, p.10) remained undisputed. However, a debate has recently ignited following reports from France, Japan and the USA that Mickey Mouse has been seen 'in the flesh' dancing and performing to welcome and entertain tourists (Ursula 2008; Hook 2010; Farquaad 2012). The Disney website (2016 Figure 1) supports this theory, displaying photos of Mickey and promoting an attraction where you can meet the character.

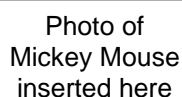


Photo of  
Mickey Mouse  
inserted here

Figure 1: Mickey Mouse (Disney 2019)

In an interview with three hyenas who starred in film The Lion King (1994), Banzai describes that he has seen a dancing character whose description matches that of Mickey. He stated:

"I was prowling around with my two pals; we were minding our own business, sharing jokes. Suddenly, we couldn't believe our eyes when a large mouse appeared wearing a bow tie and suit?! It was huge, it was dancing and it was hilarious! We thought we were hallucinating."  
(Scar et al. 2013, p.100).

It seems that Mickey Mouse's identity has not been proven to exist. However the character has a presence and huge fan following online. Mickey's social media page on Facebook has over ten million followers (Mouse 2015).

The overwhelming weight of evidence reviewed here suggests that 'Mickey Mouse' refers primarily to the cartoon character created by Walt Disney early in his career and only secondarily to representations of that character by actors. Mickey Mouse is not alive, but neither is he dead.

## References

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Burgundy, R. 2016. Taking the Mickey! *Anchorman International*, 3 June 2014.

De Ville, C. 1996. *Memoirs of a dalmatian catcher*. London: Macmillan.

Disney, 2020. *Meet Mickey Mouse at Town Square Theater in Walt Disney World* [photograph]. Florida: USA. Available from: [www.made-up-fake-url.com](http://www.made-up-fake-url.com) [Accessed 11 August 2020].

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Hook, C. 2010. That pesky mouse! *Disney Journal*, 8 (2), 10-11.

Mouse, M., 2015. *Mickey Mouse*. Florida Disney. Available from: <https://www.facebook.com/MickeyMouse> [Accessed 2 September 2016].

Pixar, A.S. 2014. *Mickey: the enigma*. Emeryville: Pixar Animation Studios. Available from: [www.mickeymouse.com](http://www.mickeymouse.com) [Accessed 29 August 2014].

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*The Lion King*, 1994. [film, DVD]. Directed by Roger Allers and Rob Minkoff. USA: Walt Disney Pictures.

Ursula, W. 2009. Large mouse spotted: cartoon critter or out of control lab rat? *Disney Weekly*. Available from: [www.disneynews.com](http://www.disneynews.com) [Accessed 29 August 2015].

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## Important Notes

### Tips:

- Check your Programme and Unit Handbooks, or, confirm with academics who are setting and marking assignments for details on how to format the line spacing in your assignments (e.g. it may need to be 1.5 line spacing).
- Reference lists are presented alphabetically in order of Surname / Family Name / Organisation

### Explanations for colour coded examples highlighted above:

BBC 2016; Burgundy 2016, and, Ursula 2008; Hook 2010; Farquaad 2012 (highlighted green)

- Examples showing how to reference more than one source as evidence for the same paraphrased statement / argument – add a semi-colon in between citations

DeVille 1996 (highlighted blue)

- Example showing how to display a short quotation

Disney 2020 (highlighted pink)

- Example showing how to refer to and display a figure in the main text of your work

Scar, L., Shenzi, H. Banzai, H. and Ed, H., eds. 2013 (highlighted yellow)

- Example showing how to display a long quotation, and, how to reference a source with more than two authors (editors in this case)