



**STYLE GUIDELINES FOR ACADEMIC WRITING
INTERNATIONAL LAW:
WRITING, RESEARCH, REFERENCING, AND PRACTICALITIES**

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1. PLAGIARISM

1.1. General

- All academic work submitted by students will be subject to the [UJ Policy: Student Plagiarism](#).
- All students are required to complete [an affidavit](#) relating to all academic work submitted.
- All academic work will be submitted to Turnitin.

1.2. UJ Plagiarism Policy

- Please refer to the [UJ Policy: Student Plagiarism](#).

2. PRACTICAL TIPS FOR WRITING:

- **Writer's block:** you need to write, but feel stuck. This technique can be used for anything: from finding a research topic, writing your outline for your minor-dissertation/thesis, starting that first chapter, writing introductions and conclusions (add your own thing that stops you from writing) ... Write for 25 minutes without interruption (the [pomodoro technique](#)). It doesn't have to make sense, be grammatically correct, profound, or just beautiful: just write down everything you think/feel/know about whatever you are stuck with. You can even password-protect it so no-one besides you will ever read it.

3. GENERAL WRITING:

- Use size 12 for the main text, size 10 for the footnotes.
- Preferred font style: Arial or Times New Roman.
- Long quotations (exceed three lines of the text): separate paragraph, font size 10, and indented on the left. Please do not place these long quotations in italics.
- Line and paragraph spacing: 1,5 for the main text, 1 for the footnotes.
- Justify text on the left and right margins of the main text and of the footnotes.

4. REFERENCING STYLE GUIDELINES

4.1. General

- Lose all unnecessary punctuation marks in footnotes. Using too many punctuation marks is confusing, becomes tedious, and you are guaranteed to make mistakes.

- Keep references simple, whilst giving the reader as much information as possible to easily find the source cited.
- Foreign language: *italics* or 'quotation marks'.
- Headings:
 - Use headings to guide the reader through your thought process.
 - It is preferable that headings are numbered.
 - Headings should look like this:

FIRST LEVEL HEADINGS

Second level headings

Third level headings

4.2. Books

- *General*
- First footnote: full names of each author, thereafter you use the first surname appearing on the book in subsequent footnotes (cross-referencing to the first footnote).
- Subsequent footnotes: use the cross-referencing tool (see below).
- *Examples*
- Full names of author/s *Title of Book in Italics Each Word Capitalised* (year of publication).
- James Nyawo *Selective Enforcement and International Criminal Law: the International Criminal Court and Africa* (2017).
- Daniel Moeckli, Sangeeta Shah, and Sandesh Sivakumaran (Eds), David Harris (Consultant Editor) *International Human Rights Law* (2010).
- Chapters in books: Leila Nadya Sadat 'International criminal law and alternative modes of redress' in A Zimmermann *International Criminal Law and the Current Development of Public International Law: Proceedings of an International Symposium of the Kiel Walther Schücking Institute of International Law, May 30 – June 2, 2002* (2003) 161 at 169.

4.3. Journals

- *General*
- First footnote: full names of each author, thereafter you use the first surname appearing on the book in subsequent footnotes (cross-referencing to the first footnote).
- Subsequent footnotes: use the cross-referencing tool (see below).
- Journal name: consistency is key, so choose to either always cite the full name of each journal, or to use abbreviations. In the latter case it is advisable to add a list of abbreviations for the reader.
- *Examples*
- Full names of author/s 'Title of article in sentence case' in *Full Journal Name* (year) page where article starts at specific page referred to.
- Mispa Roux 'Obstacles to the prevention of gross human rights violations' in *Tydskrif vir die Suid-Afrikaanse Reg/Journal of South African Law* (2018) 106 at 112.
- Paulo Gaeta 'Does President Al Bashir enjoy immunity from arrest?' in *Journal of International Criminal Justice* (2009) 315 at 317.

4.4. Treaties

- *General*
- First footnote: full name of treaty ('abbreviation'/'acronym').
- Subsequent footnotes: only abbreviation/acronym.
- Use the same abbreviation/acronym as the one used by the organ responsible for drafting and negotiating the treaty.
- *Examples*
- Charter of the United Nations ('UN Charter').
- Statute of the International Court of Justice ('ICJ Statute').
- Rome Statute of the International Court ('ICC Statute').
- Law on the Establishment of Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia for the Prosecution of Crimes Committed during the Period of Democratic Kampuchea ('ECCC Law').
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment ('CAT').

4.5. Judgments: international and regional courts

- *General*
- First citation: provide the full name of judgment with the full list of parties before the court.
- Thereafter you can provide the shorter, well-known name.
- *Examples*
- *Full Name of Case* date COURT ABBREVIATION first page number (what this is: for example, a Judgment/Decision/Warrant of Arrest) par page referred to.
- International Court of Justice: *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Bosnia and Herzegovina v Serbia and Montenegro)* 26 February 2007 ICJ 1 (Judgment) par 188 at 70 ('*Bosnia Genocide*').
- International Criminal Court: *The Prosecutor v Omar Hassan Ahmad Al Bashir* 12 July 2010 ICC (Second Warrant of Arrest).
- International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda: *The Prosecutor v Jean-Paul Akayesu* 1 June 2001 ICTR ICTR-96-4-A (Judgment and Sentence).
- International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia: *The Prosecutor v Radislav Krstić* 19 April 2004 ICTY IT-98-33-A (Judgment).
- Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia: *Kaing Guek Eav alias Duch* 4 March 2011 ECCC Case File/Dossier No. 001/18-07-2007/ECCC/SC (Order Scheduling Appeal Hearing).
- Inter-American Court of Human Rights: *Velásquez-Rodríguez v Honduras* 29 July 1988 IACHR (Ser. C) No. 4 (Judgment)
- European Court of Human Rights: *Al-Adsani v The United Kingdom* 21 November 2001 ECHR 35763/97.
- African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights: *Centre for Minority Rights Development (Kenya) and Minority Rights Group International on behalf of Endorois Welfare Council v Kenya* African Commission (Communication 276/03)

4.6. United Nations

- *General*
- Provide as much information as possible for the reader.
- Use the same acronyms and abbreviations as those used by the UN.

- Most, if not all, UN sources are found on the internet. Please ensure you refer to internet sources in accordance with paragraph para 1.8 below.
- *Examples*
- General Assembly:
 - General Assembly Resolution 217 (III), *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, 10 December 1948.
 - General Assembly Resolution 60/1, *World Summit Outcome Document*, A/RES/60/1, 24 October 2005.
- Security Council:
 - Security Council Resolution 1973 (2011), S/RES/1973 (2011), 17 March 2011.
- International Law Commission:
 - International Law Commission's Articles on the Responsibility of States for Internationally Wrongful Acts, *Report of the International Law Commission, Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-Third Session*, 23 April – 1 June and 2 July – 10 August 2001, Supplement 10 (A/56/10).
- Other UN sources:
 - Human Rights Committee General Comment 33.
 - *Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and Reports of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General: Prevention of Genocide*, Human Rights Council, A/HRC/10/25, 9 March 2009.
 - *A More Secure World: Our Shared Responsibility*, Report of the Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, 2004.
 - Report of the Secretary-General Pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 53/35, *The Fall of Srebrenica*, UN Doc. A/54/549, 15 November 1999.

4.7. African Union and other regional organisations

- *General*
- Provide as much information as possible for the reader.
- Use the same acronyms and abbreviations as those used by the AU.
- Most, if not all, AU sources are found on the internet. Please ensure you refer to internet sources in accordance with paragraph para 1.8 below.
- *Examples*
- *Decision on the Report of the Peace and Security Council on its Activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa*, Assembly/AU/10 (XV), Assembly/AU/Dec.294(XV).2, 27 July 2010, paras 14 – 18 at 16 – 17.
- *Draft Protocol on Amendments to the Protocol on the Statute of the African Court of Justice and Human Rights*, Meeting of Government Experts and Ministers of Justice/Attorneys General on Legal Matters, Exp/Min/IV/Rev.7, 14 – 15 May 2012, at 7 – 11 ('Malabo Protocol').

4.8. The internet

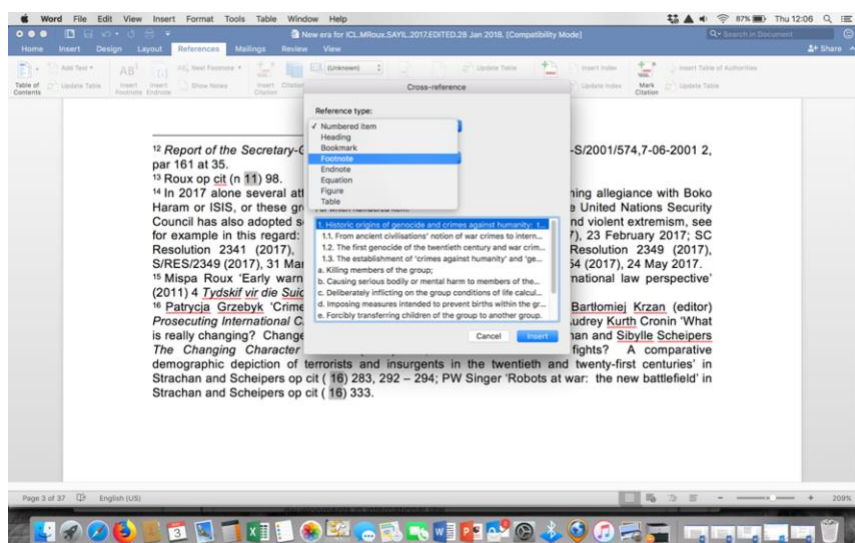
- *General*
- Only use websites that deal specifically with law, current affairs, or that are generally trusted for its reliability.
- If you are uncertain whether a website would meet these criteria, consider the following: you find a news report on a website about a chemical attack on children, indicating it may have been carried out by a government's armed forces. However, on that very same website you can also read a report about a reality star that is

even too sleazy for the *Huisgenoot* to consider publishing... My advice? Rather don't use this website as a source when you're writing an academic piece. Instead, find and cite a report on that same chemical attack, but published by a reliable website.

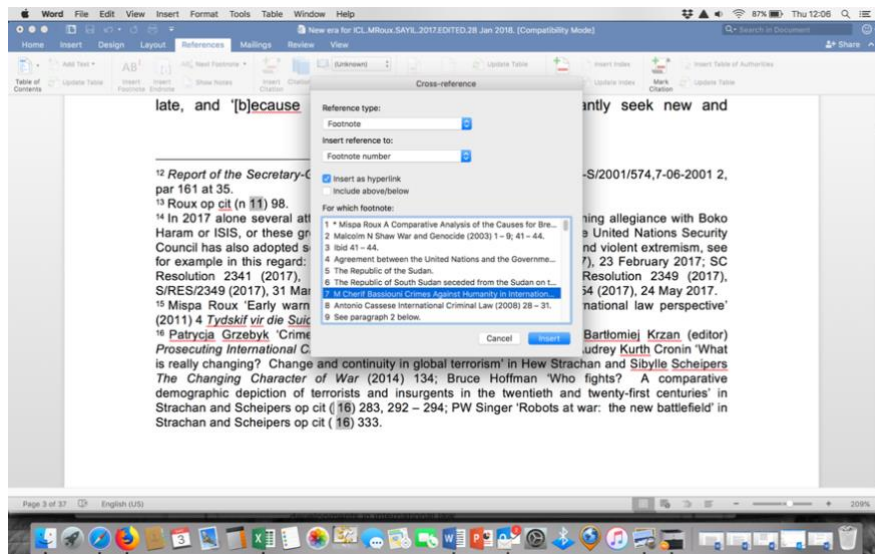
- Examples of websites specifically dealing with law, current affairs, or that are generally trusted for its reliability:
 - [the United Nations](#);
 - [the African Union](#);
 - [Human Rights Watch](#);
 - [Amnesty International](#);
 - [the International Committee of the Red Cross](#);
 - [the International Court of Justice](#);
 - [the International Criminal Court](#);
 - [the Constitutional Court](#);
 - [the Supreme Court of Appeal](#);
 - [South African Government](#);
 - [Southern African Legal Information Institute \(SAFLII\)](#);
 - [Blog of the European Journal of International Law](#) ('*EJIL: Talk!*')
 - [Al Jazeera](#);
 - [BBC World News](#);
 - [Mail & Guardian](#);
 - [the Daily Maverick](#).
- *Example*
- The Responsibility to Protect, *Report of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty*, December 2001, retrievable at: <http://responsibilitytoprotect.org/ICISS%20Report.pdf> (last visited 4 May 2018).

5. HOW TO CROSS-REFERENCE:

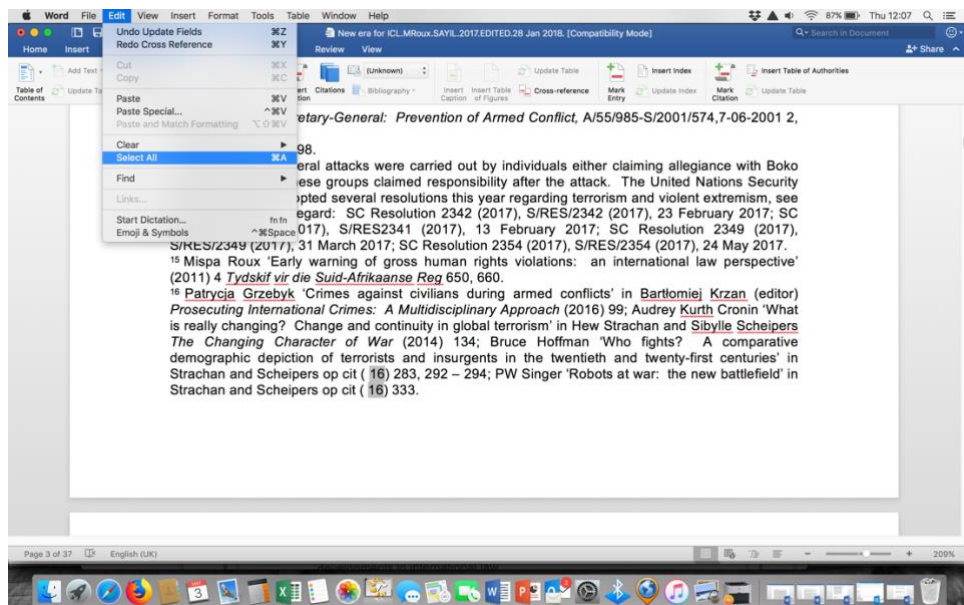
5.1. Step 1: Under 'references', select 'cross-reference', and under 'reference type' select 'footnote':



5.2. Step 2: Select the specific footnote that you want to cross-reference to and select 'insert' and then select 'close':

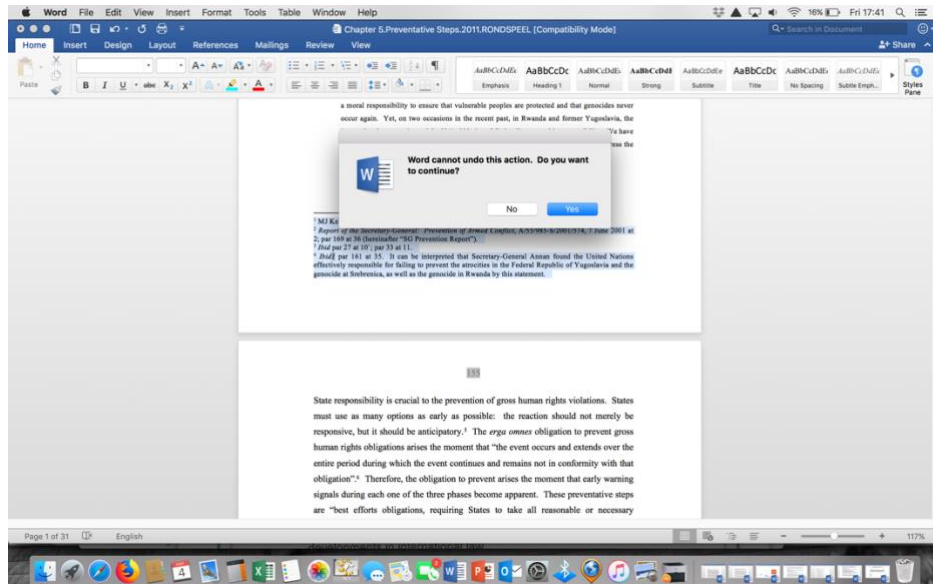


5.3. Step 3: If you need to update cross-references (for example, your original footnote 12 has now become footnote 50 because you added extra sources in-between), do the following: place your cursor in the footnotes, and 'select all':



5.4. Step 4: The next step will update all footnotes (NB: it is irreversible, so be very sure you have done it correctly!)

- For Apple: press FN F9.
- Other computers: press F9.
- The following message will appear, select 'yes':



5.5. Final step: Your footnotes should all be updated now, but double check to be sure. Remember to save your work!

6. IN CONCLUSION:

- If you don't know, ask!
- Please feel free to contact your lecturers at:
 - Dr Mispa Roux (mroux@uj.ac.za); or
 - Prof Tseli Moses Phooko (rphooko@uj.ac.za).