

Introductory Signals – Rules 1.2, 1.3, and 1.4 Bluebook 19th ed.

Signals indicating support

1. Identifies source of quotation
no signal
2. Identifies authority referred to in text
no signal
3. Directly **states** the proposition
Authority referenced and cited – no signal

More than one authority could be cited but only one is cited because the others would not be helpful or are not necessary – *E.g.*,

When the text refers to one authority only but additional authorities are cited, introduce others using *Accord*

4. Clearly **supports** the proposition (inferential step required)
Authority referenced and cited – *See*

More than one authority could be cited but only one is cited because the others would not be helpful or are not necessary – *See e.g.*,

When the text refers to one authority only but additional authorities are cited, introduce others using *Accord*

When citing an authority that supports the proposition after other authorities that state or directly support the proposition – *See also* (Use of an explanatory parenthetical is recommended before use of *see also*.)

5. Cited authority supports a proposition different from the main proposition but is sufficiently analogous to lend support – *Cf.*

Signals suggesting comparison

Compare ... with ...

Signals indicating background material

See generally (Use of explanatory parenthetical is recommended.)

Signals indicating contradiction

Directly contrary – *Contra*

Supports a contrary proposition – *But see*

Cited authority supports an analogous proposition contrary to the main proposition – *But cf.*

Order of signals

1. When more than one signal is used, the signals with the authorities they introduce should appear in the following order:

no signal

E.g.

Accord

See

See also

Cf.

Compare ... with ...

Contra

But see

But cf.

See generally

2. Signals of the same type (supportive, comparative, contradictory, background) must be strung together within a single citation sentence and separated by semicolons. Signals of different types must be grouped in different citation sentences.

Order of Authorities within signals

1. If one authority is considerably more helpful or authoritative than others cited within a signal, it should precede the others.
2. Otherwise follow order given in Rule 1.4