

Common Turabian Mistakes

The following is a list of style issues that are commonly overlooked by thesis writers. The relevant passages in Turabian and in the Turabian Supplement are provided for each topic.

1. Numbering Footnotes (Turabian 16.3.3)

Footnotes must start over at 1 for each new chapter. Forgetting to do this is the most common Turabian mistake.

2. Shortened Footnotes for Subsequent References (Turabian 16.4.1)

Although Turabian gives options for shortening subsequent references, please use the author-title method rather than the author-only method, as prescribed in Turabian 16.4.1 and Supplement, p. 6.

3. Proper use of “Ibid.”

Always follow “Ibid.” with a comma before a page reference, even if the page reference is to a journal, which in a full reference would be preceded by a colon. For example, one might have Ibid., 27, but never Ibid.: 27.

4. Translator’s Name (Turabian 17.1)

When citing a work that has been translated into English, always include the translator’s name. This is often omitted by students.

5. Book Editor vs. Series Editor (Turabian 17.1.5)

If a book is part of a series, include the series title in the citation; the name of the series editor does not need to be included. However, if you wish to include both the book editor and series editor, make sure they are listed in the proper order: the book editor’s name follows the book title; the series editor’s name follows the series title. These often get confused.

6. Abbreviation List (Supplement, p. 6)

If abbreviations such as BDAG and TDNT are used, insert a list of them after the table of contents. See Turabian, p. 384 for an example.

7. Repeated Names in the Bibliography

Contrary to Turabian 16.2.2, we no longer use the 3-em dash for second and subsequent references to the same author with multiple works. Therefore, repeat the author’s name as necessary.