

Citing Legal Materials in APA Style *Inserting the Section Symbol*

Inserting the Section Number in Microsoft Word

In Microsoft Word, when you are typing and ready to add the section symbol, choose:

Insert (pull-down menu at top of screen)

Symbol (menu choice in MS Word 2003, far right tab in MS Word 2007)

More Symbols (*MS Word 2007 only?*)

Special Characters

Section

§

Format of Legal Citations That Include Section Numbers

Legal citations to most law codes (statutes & regulations) use the following format:

- Title number
- Abbreviation of the source
- § Section number

For example:

42 USC § 5101g - federal law defining child abuse

California Codes

Citations to California codes do not include a numbered title but list the title in English (either spelled out or abbreviated).

For example:

CAL PENAL Code § 11164 - California law requiring child abuse be reported

CAL Educ Code §§ 220-221.1 - California law prohibiting discrimination in schools

Why sections instead of page numbers?

Law *codes* gather all laws (statutes or regulations) currently in force on a topic and arrange them by subject. Since new statutes are constantly being passed, thereby expanding (or contracting) the current law on a topic, law codes are not cited by page number (which would be constantly changing), but by title and section instead. Each title represents a major topic in the law (e.g. education, taxes, transportation), and each section represents a specific sub-topic within each title.