

Footnotes vs. Works Cited

The most obvious distinction between footnotes and a list of Works Cited is that the footnote belongs at the bottom of a page of text while the list of Works Cited forms a separate page at the end of the paper. Other than placement, though, there are three other distinctions, namely:

- 1) Indentation
- 2) Punctuation
- 3) Name Order

Indentation:

A footnote uses normal indentation. The first line is indented, and the following lines are flush with the margin. An entry in a list of Works Cited, on the other hand, uses “reverse” or “hanging” indentation. The first line is flush with the margin, and all of the rest of lines in the citation are indented.

Footnote:

Martin Luther King, Jr., “I Have a Dream,” *International Business Times* (streaming video), posted August 28, 2013, accessed February 8, 2013, <http://www.ibtimes.com/i-have-dream-speech-full-transcript-video-read-dr-martin-luther-king-jrs-1963-speech-its-50th>.

Entry in a list of Works Cited:

King, Martin Luther, Jr. “I Have a Dream.” *International Business Times* (streaming video). Posted August 28, 2013. Accessed February 8, 2013. <http://www.ibtimes.com/i-have-dream-speech-full-transcript-video-read-dr-martin-luther-king-jrs-1963-speech-its-50th>.

Punctuation:

A footnote uses commas to separate elements, while an entry in a list of Works Cited uses periods. In the examples below, I have highlighted the commas and periods in red type. Contrast the punctuation of the “Footnote” example with the punctuation of the “Entry in a list of Works Cited” example.

Footnote:

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Name Order:

A final distinction between footnotes and entries in a Works Cited page is that footnotes do not reverse an author's first and last name, while entries in a Works Cited page do. In the examples below, compare the information in red type.

Footnote:

Martin Luther King, Jr., "I Have a Dream," *International Business Times* (streaming video), posted August 28, 2013, accessed February 8, 2013, <http://www.ibtimes.com/i-have-dream-speech-full-transcript-video-read-dr-martin-luther-king-jrs-1963-speech-its-50th>.

Entry in a list of Works Cited:

King, Martin Luther, Jr. "I Have a Dream." *International Business Times* (streaming video). Posted August 28, 2013. Accessed February 8, 2013. <http://www.ibtimes.com/i-have-dream-speech-full-transcript-video-read-dr-martin-luther-king-jrs-1963-speech-its-50th>.