How to cite primary sources

You do not need to include primary sources in your works cited page. However, when directly quoting, referencing or summarizing a primary text you will need to cite the text in the body of your paper. There are specific conventions for citing classical works. Ancient authors and works are abbreviated and then referenced by book number and/or section/paragraph number or line number. Whether you will be referencing a book, section or line number depends on the author.

Your main primary sources for this text are Livy, Tertullian, and perhaps also Suetonius and Ovid.

Here are the abbreviations used when citing these authors:

- Livy = Liv.
- Suetonius = Suet.
- Ovid = Ov.
- Tertullian = Tert.

If only one work by an author survives, you do not need to reference the name of the work. For example, Livy has written 142 books chronicling the history of Rome. But we organize these books by book number; he has not written a book of poetry, and therefore a book and section number suffice for citations. If you look at page one of ‘Origins and Foundations’ (reading from Sept. 9), you will see that the first excerpt from Livy is listed as 1.35. This means that this section comes from Book 1, section 35. If you are using this section in your paper, you would cite this as (Liv. 1.35). If you are using a section from page 2 in ‘Origins and Foundations’, such as 5.49-50, you would cite it as (Liv. 5.49-50). Some sections are longer than others. 7.2, which starts on page 2 and continues to page 4 of ‘Origins and Foundations’, is rather long. Since 7.2 is not broken into smaller sections in this text, you should reference it as (Liv. 7.2).

If you are using Suetonius, Ovid, or Tertullian, citing is a bit more complicated. Several works by each of these authors survive, which means that you will need to cite the work in addition to the author. Here are the abbreviations/format for the texts you will be using:

- Tertullian, On Spectacles, sec. 5 = (Tert. Spect. 5)
- Suetonius, Life of Julius Caesar, sec. 26 = (Suet. Jul. 26) or (Suet. Iul. 26)
- Ovid, Fasti 3.809-8130 = (Ov. Fast. 3.809-8130)

If you would like to cite primary sources referenced by Kyle, you will need to learn the standard abbreviations for the author/text. Here is a complete list of standard abbreviations for citing classical works in in-text citations:

http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/abbrevhelp

If you would like to use the passage Kyle cites on page 34 (a description of Caesar’s games in 46 BCE), you will need to read Kyle’s footnotes. His footnote on this passage indicates that it is from Suetonius’ Life of Julius Caesar, section 39 (Suet. Iul. 39).


