THESIS WRITING GUIDELINES

A Handbook for Postgraduate Students

College of Dentistry University of Baghdad 2021

THESIS WRITING GUIDELINES

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THESIS WRITING GUIDELINES

These guidelines are designed to help you write a thesis at the College of Dentistry, University of Baghdad. Your adherence to these recommendations helps to avoid time-consuming formal revisions of your work. Thus, please read these guidelines carefully.

Number of Pages

The standard number of pages for a higher diploma literature review should be about 50 pages, M.Sc. thesis should be about 120 pages, and Ph.D. thesis should be about 200 pages of normal text. Note that, exceeding these standards without the consent of the supervisor is not an attribute of quality.

Language

The thesis should be written in academic English.

Page Layout

- Select Page size A4.
- For side margins, the left side margin should be 4 cm while the right side margin should be 2 cm.
- The top and bottom margins should both be 2 cm.

Font Style, Size and Line Spacing

- Use the font "Times New Roman" throughout the thesis.
- Use font size 14-point for regular text.
- Use font size 18-point (bold) for chapter titles and font size 16-point (bold) for subchapter titles.
- Use font size 12-point for footnotes and endnotes.

- The text should be in four levels of headings. Also, the dot is not placed after the last or only digit (e.g.: 2, 2.1, 2.2.1, 2.2.1.2).
- Single column format.
- Full justification of the lines throughout the text.
- Each new paragraph should be clearly designated with an additional spacing (one tab) of 2 cm.
- Each new section heading should be separated from the previous by a single empty line.
- The symbol "X" will later be seen in the sample pages and represents an empty row, for example 6X means 6 empty rows.
- The formulas and symbols should be written in italics.
- The line spacing for the text in the thesis should be 1.5 lines spacing.
- Line spacing for the text in the quotations, references, footnotes, and endnotes should be 1.0 line spacing.
- Line spacing for equations should be 2.0 line spacing.

Page Numbering:

- The cover and title pages should not be numbered.
- The pages should be numbered with Roman numbers (I, II, III, IV, etc.) for the table of contents, list of figures, list of tables, and list of abbreviations.
- All pages from the introduction to the last chapter have to be numbered consecutively with Arabic numbers (1, 2, 3, 4, etc.).

Headings and Subheadings

• The main headings should be centered at the top of a new page and allin upper-case format (capital letters). Font style "Times New Roman" and size 18-point, and should be in bold type. Main headings consist of the following: Supervisor Certification, Linguistic Certification, Certification of the examination committee and the dean, Declaration, Dedication, Acknowledgement, Abstract, Table of Contents, List of Figures, List of Tables, List of Abbreviations and Symbols, Introduction, Aims of the Study, Review of Literature, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusion and Suggestions, References, and Appendix.

- Only the chapter title in the opening page should be font style "Times New Roman", size 24-point, and in bold.
- Sub headings and sub- sub headings should be in bold and only the first word is capitalized, e.g.:
- 2.1 Hardness data sets
- 2.2.1 Peroxide concentration.
- Use an upper-case letter (capitalized) for first word only for headings of figure and tables, e.g.:
- Figure 2.1: Incidence of bacterial infection.
- Table 3.1: Descriptive statistics for surface roughness.

Figures and Tables in Text

- Each table and figure must have a separate number and title.
- Each table and figure must be mentioned by number in the text e.g. (Figure 2.2) and (Table 3.2).
- The tables and figures should appear in the text after they are first mentioned.
- Tables and figures should not be placed in a separate page without text unless they are larger than half the page.
- The resolution for the figures should be at least 300 dpi.

Figure and Table Titles (Captions)

- Each figure and table should be given a number and an appropriate title, e.g.:
- Figure 5.1: Incidence of bacterial infections.
- Table 3.1: Descriptive statistics for surface roughness.
- The numbering of the figures should be specific to the chapters, so figures in the first chapter are numbered 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 etc. The tables should be numbered independently and are also specific to the chapter, so tables in the first chapter should also be numbered 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 etc.
- The title for a table is above that table, and for the figure is below it.
- Position table number and caption flush left on the line above the table.
- The figure number and caption should be positioned in the center on the line below the figure.
- Font size should be (12-point) and font style "Times New Roman".

Abbreviation and Symbols

A Term or name to be abbreviated must, on its first appearance, be spelled completely and followed immediately by its abbreviation in brackets in the text. Thereafter, the abbreviation may be used within the text without further explanation.

Thesis Contents and Ordering

The structure of the thesis should be as follows:

- Cover page
- Title page
- Supervisor Certification
- Linguistic Certification

- Certification of the examination committee and the dean
- Declaration
- Dedication
- Acknowledgment
- Abstract (optional for higher diploma literature review)
- Table of contents
- List of figures
- List of tables
- List of abbreviations and symbols
- Introduction
- Aims of the study
- Review of Literature
- Materials and Methods (optional for higher diploma literature review)
- Results (optional for higher diploma literature review)
- Discussion (optional for higher diploma literature review)
- Conclusions and Suggestions
- References
- Appendices (optional)
- الخلاصة (باللغة العربية)
- صفحة العنوان (باللغة العربية)

COVER PAGE

- Font style and size for this page is "Times New Roman" and 14-point, except the thesis title which is 18-point and bold.
- The title of thesis should be written so that all of the letters are in upper case format.

The cover page must contain the following:

- University logo at the upper right-hand side of the page
- College logo at the upper left-hand side of the page
- Name of the country, ministry, university and college name
- Title of the thesis
- Student's name and surname
- Student's academic degree
- Supervisor 's academic rank, name, and surname
- Supervisor's academic degree
- Year in Gregorian and Hijri calendars.

COVER PAGE SAMPLE PAGE



Republic of Iraq

Ministry of Higher Education

and Scientific Research

University of Baghdad

College of Dentistry



TITLE OF THE THESIS

No. of X varies according to title length

A thesis submitted to the council of the College of Dentistry/ University of Baghdad in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of <u>name of academic degree</u> in <u>name of specialty</u>



Student's name and surname

academic degree



Supervisor's academic rank, name, and surname

academic degree



Year in Gregorian calendar

Year in Hijri calendar

TITLE PAGE

This page is the same as the cover page.

SUPERVISOR CERTIFICATION

This page certifies that the student organized and prepared the thesis under the supervision of the supervisor.

This page should state supervisor's signature, academic rank, name, academic degree, and date.

SUPERVISOR CERTIFICATION

2	X

This is to certify that this thesis was organized and prepared by the graduate
student under my supervision in the Department of
, College of Dentistry/ University of Baghdad, as partial
fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of in

6X

Supervisor's signature
Supervisor's academic rank and name
Supervisor's academic degree
Date

LINGUISTIC CERTIFICATION

This page certifies that the thesis was reviewed to meet the academic style of English writing.

This page should state the linguistic's signature, academic rank, name, academic degree, and date.

LINGUISTIC CERTIFICATION



This is to certify that the thesis entitled: "......"
was reviewed to meet the academic style of English writing.



Linguistic's signature

Linguistic's academic rank and name

Linguistics's academic degree

Date

CERTIFICATION OF THE EXAMINATION COMMITTEE AND THE DEAN

This page certifies that the examination committee approved this academic work. This page should state signatures, academic ranks, names, academic degrees, and date of signature of all the members of the examination committee in addition to that of the college dean.

CERTIFICATION OF THE EXAMINATION COMMITTEE AND THE DEAN

We, the members of the examining committee, certify that after reading the
thesis and examining the student in its contents, it is adequate for the award of
the Degree of in

Chairman

Chairman's signature
Academic rank and name
Academic degree

Member Member

Member's signatureMember's signatureAcademic rank and nameAcademic rank and nameAcademic degreeAcademic degree

Approved by the council of the College of Dentistry/University of Baghdad

The Dean

Dean's signature

Academic rank and name

Academic degree

Dean of the College of Dentistry University of Baghdad

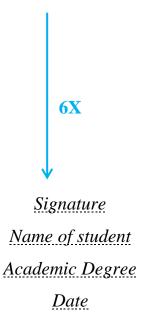
DECLARATION

This page contains a declaration of the student on the originality of the thesis. This page should state student's signature, name, academic degree, and date.

DECLARATION



I declare that this thesis was prepared, written, and entirely the result of my own work and I have faithfully and properly cited all sources used in the dissertation.



DEDICATION



I would like to dedicate...etc.

ACKNOWLEGEMENT



I would like to thank...etc.

ABSTRACT

- An abstract provides a summary of the main topics present in the thesis which are the introduction, materials and methods, results, and the conclusion.
- The word count for the abstract should be around 300 words.

ABSTRACT PAGE SAMPLE PAGE

ABSTRACT

(Optional for higher diploma literature review)



The ...etc.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The following guidelines should be followed:

- Center the heading "TABLE OF CONTENTS" in bold uppercase letters, Font type and size is the same as other main headings (style "Times New Roman" and font size 18-point).
- Font style of the rest of the table of contents is "Times New Roman" and font size 14-point.
- Place leader dots (.....) between listings and page numbers.
- In the table of contents, every section that follows the table of contents should be listed separately in sequence.
- This page has to state sequentially the headings of the single chapters, sections and subsections in complete ordering as well as the page numbers of the chapter beginnings.
- The chapters should be numbered with one numeral (1, 2, 3...), the sections with two numerals (2.1, 2.2, 2.3 ...), and subsections with three numerals (2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.3...) up to four order numbering.



TABLE OF CONTENTS



List of Figures	Page number
List of Tables	Page number
List of Abbreviations and Symbols	Page number
INTRODUCTION	Page number
AIMS OF THE STUDY	Page number
CHAPTER 1 REVIEW OF LITERATURE	Page number
1.1 Section	Page number
1.2 Section	Page number
1.3 Section	Page number
1.3.1 Sub-Section	Page number
1.3.2 Sub- Section	Page number
1.4 Section.	Page number
1.5 Section	Page number
CHAPTER 2 MATERIALS AND METHODS	Page number
CHAPTER 3 RESULT	Page number
CHAPTER 4 DISCUSSION	Page number
CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION	Page number
REFERENCES	Page number
APPENDICES	Page number

LIST OF FIGURES AND LIST OF TABLES

- Center the heading "LIST OF TABLES" and "LIST OF FIGURES" in bold uppercase letters, font type and size are the same as other main headings (style "Times New Roman" and font size 18-point).
- Font style of the list should be "Times New Roman" and font size 14-point
- Place leader dots from last word of title to the page number.

LIST OF FIGURES SAMPLE PAGE

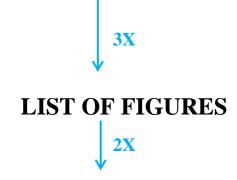


Figure 2.1 [Figure Name]	page number
Figure 2.2 [Figure Name]	page number
Figure 2.3 [Figure Name]	page number

LIST OF TABLES SAMPLE PAGE

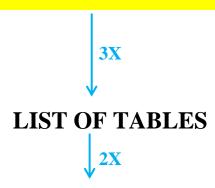


Table 2.1 [Table Name]	page number
Table 2.2 [Table Name]	page number
Table 2.3 [Table Name]	page number

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

- Center the heading "LIST OF ABBREVIATION AND SYMBOLS" in bold uppercase letters, Font type and size is the same as other main headings (style "Times New Roman" and font size 18-point).
- Font style of the list should be "Times New Roman" and font size 14-point
- The list of abbreviations and symbols should be in alphabetic order.
- The abbreviation or symbol should be written first followed by the full name.

LIST OF ABBREVIATONS AND SYMBOLS



ADA American Dental Association

ANSI American National Standard Institute

BHN Brinell hardness number

DW Distilled water

LSD Least significant difference

SD Standard deviation

OPENING PAGE FOR INTRODUCTION

On a separate page center, the title in bold uppercase letters. Font style is "Times New Roman" and font size 24-point.



6X

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

- The title "INTRODUCTION" should be centered, bold, with font style "Times New Roman" and size 18-point.
- The first paragraph of the introduction should start below the title by 2 empty rows (2X).
- The font style should be "Times New Roman" and font size 14-point
- The introduction should start with several sentences that attract the reader's interest. It should then introduce the main topics that are presented in the thesis.
- The recommended number of pages for the introduction is around 3 pages.
- The introduction should be properly cited and paraphrased with absence of plagiarism.

AIMS OF THE STUDY

- This should be placed in a separate page after the end of the introduction and titled "AIMS OF THE STUDY". The title should be centered, bold, with font style "Times New Roman" and size 18-point.
- The text should start below the title by 2 empty rows (2X).
- The font style should be "Times New Roman" and font size 14-point
- In the aims of the study, the following should be clearly stated:
 - o Purpose of the study by presenting the main aim of the study.
 - Rationale. This section should start with a subheading "Rationale" and present the reason and need for conducting the study to justify the significance of the study and novelty.
 - Hypothesis. This section is placed after "Rationale" with a subheading "Hypothesis" and includes the null hypothesis and alternative hypothesis for the study.
 - Objectives. This is the last section and should start with a subheading "Objectives". In this section, the primary and secondary objectives of the study are clearly stated.

CHAPTER- OPENING PAGES

On a separate page, center the chapter number and title in bold uppercase letters. Font style is "Times New Roman", font size 24-point, and in bold. *This is necessary before the beginning of every chapter (Review of Literature, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, and Conclusions and suggestions).*

6X

CHAPTER 1

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

CHAPTER 1 REVIEW OF LITERATURE

- Treat the review of literature as chapter 1 and consider "REVIEW OF LITERATURE" the title of this chapter. The title "REVIEW OF LITERATURE" should be centered and bold with font style "Times New Roman" and size 18-point.
- The first paragraph of the review of literature should start below the title by 2 empty rows (2X).
- The font style should be "Times New Roman" and font size 14-point
- In this section the student should demonstrate evidence of understanding of the current research on the subject under review.
- The review of literature should be properly cited, paraphrased, and without plagiarism.

CHAPTER 2 MATERIALS AND METHODS

- Treat "MATERIALS AND METHODS" as chapter 2 and consider "MATERIALS AND METHODS" the title of this chapter. The title "MATERIALS AND METHODS" should be centered and bold with font style "Times New Roman" and size 18-point.
- The first paragraph of the materials and methods should start below the title by 2 empty rows (2X).
- The font style should be "Times New Roman" and font size 14-point
- This section should give an explanation for the materials and procedures that were adopted in the research you have conducted. Provide full details so that other researchers could repeat your work.
- Any plants, animals, microorganisms used in the research should be acknowledged accurately by genus, species, and strain designation.
- Gender, age, and genetic status should be stated and sources should be listed.

CHAPTER 3 RESULTS

- Treat "RESULTS" as chapter 3 and consider "RESULTS" the title of this chapter. The title "RESULTS" should be centered and bold with font style "Times New Roman" and size 18-point.
- The first paragraph of the results should start below the title by 2 empty rows (2X).
- Font style should be "Times New Roman" and font size 14-point
- The author describes the observations made and findings obtained.
- The results are presented briefly in a way that answers the study questions.
- The Results should be presented clearly in this section and any nonessential data should be placed in the Appendices.

CHAPTER 4 DISCUSSION

- Treat "DISCUSSION" as chapter 4 and consider "DISCUSSION" the title of this chapter. The title "DISCUSSION" should be centered and bold with font style "Times New Roman" and size 18-point.
- The first paragraph of the discussion should start below the title by 2 empty rows (2X).
- The font style should be "Times New Roman" and font size 14-point
- This section should return to the main hypothesis and provide a discussion based on all the results of the research.
- The Discussion should be written in a way to support or verify the findings without bias and provide a clear path to a conclusion or evaluation. The author describes how the results agree with the results from the literature, and in case they disagree, the author should explain why the results differ from previous publications.

CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

- Treat "CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS" as chapter 5 and consider "CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS" the title of this chapter. The title "CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS" should be centered and bold with font style "Times New Roman" and size 18point.
- The first paragraph of the conclusions and suggestions should start below the title by 2 empty rows (2X).
- Font style should be "Times New Roman" and font size 14-point
- The Conclusion summarizes the most important results that highlight the outcome of the work and provide guidance for future research and application. This part contains the authors view on the topic.
- This chapter (the last chapter) should include additional research areas that should be suggested as well as future projection based on the study.

IN-TEXT CITATIONS (HARVARD STYLE)

The text should be cited to document your work, identify the source of the information, and enable the readers to locate the source of the information in the list of reference in an alphabetical order, at the end of the thesis.

There are two main types of in-text citation:

1. Direct quotation which presents a phrase as it is from a book, articles, report, etc. Quotations less than 40 words should be proceeded with a brief phrase to introduce the quotation and should be placed between double quotation marks (" ") within your paragraph or sentence.

For example:

As stated by Freedman (2012) "each generation of dentin bonding agents was designed to resolve specific problems associated with its predecessor" (p.195).

Quotations of 40 words or more should be in the form of block quotation. This doesn't include quotation marks. Instead, the whole paragraph of the quotation is indented to indicate that these words are not yours. Leave an extra line of space at the beginning and the end of the quote. Use a smaller size font (12-point) with line space of 1.0.

For example:

Freedman (2012, p.195) stated that:

Each generation of dentin bonding agents was designed to resolve specific problems associated with its predecessor. For example, the fifth-generation (one-bottle plus etching agent) systems were developed to offset the complexities associated with the mixing protocol of the fourth-generation bonding agents. When the primer is combined with the adhesive, the application time is reduced by one third.

2. Paraphrasing and Rephrasing: this is a restatement of a text, passage, or an idea in your own words and should represent the majority of the thesis and should have proper and accurate citation.

How should in-text citations be written using the Harvard Style?

The details that are related to in-text citation and need to be placed in mind include the number of authors for that work and if it is a quotation or a rephrasing of a fact.

• Citing one work by a single author

The method of citation should be the author-year method. The surname of the author and the year of publication are placed in the text at the suitable location.

For example, at the end of a sentence or paragraph:

...has the greatest influence (Freedman, 2012).

For example, during mentioning the author/s in a sentence:

Freedman (2012) suggested the use of ...etc.

• One work by two authors

The name of the authors of a work that has two authors should always be cited every time the reference appears in the text.

For example:

(Carr and Brown, 2011) or Carr and Brown (2011)

• One work by three or more authors

The abbreviation 'et al.' should be used after the name of the first author when the work has three or more authors.

For example:

(Jahangiri et al., 2011) or Jahangiri et al. (2011)

• One author published two or more studies in one year.

Place lower-case letters (a, b, c ...etc.) after the year to distinguish between the different publications that were published in the same year.

For example:

In-text: (Schulte et al. 1978a; Schulte et al. 1978b)

In reference list:

- Schulte, W., Kleineikenscheidt, H., Lindner, K., and Schareyka, R. (1978a). The Tübingen immediate implant in clinical studies. *Dtsch Zahnarztl Z.*, 33(5), 348-59.
- Schulte, W., Kleineikenscheidt, H., Lindner, K., Schareyka, R., Heimke, G., Gerlach, and C., Hardegg, W. (1978b). Animal experiments on the question of healing around the Tubingen immediate implant. *Dtsch. Zahnarztl. Z.*, *33*, 326–331.

Two or more works cited at one place in the text

If a number of sources are used to back a certain point or idea and placed in one in text citation then they should be mentioned in chronological order.

For example:

Ideal Occlusal contact can be achieved through... etc. (Hebel and Gajjar, 1997; Michalakis, Hirayama, and Garefis, 2003; Misch, 2005).

• Groups and Associations

Spell out the name in full the first time and abbreviate subsequent times only if abbreviation is well known.

For example:

- First time: American Psychological Association (APA) (1998) explained...
- Second time: APA (1998) proved ...

REFERENCE LIST

- The list of references should be placed in a new page at the end of your text.
- The topic "REFERENCES" should be centered at the top of the page with style "Times New Roman", size 18-point, and in bold.
- The list of the references should start below the title by 2 empty rows (2X).
- The font style should be "Times New Roman" and font size 14-point
- The reference list must include all references cited in the text of your thesis.
- The reference list should be in alphabetical order according the surname of the author.

Some Harvard Style examples for writing different types of reference:

1. Book (one author):

In-text: (Becker, 2007)

In reference list:

Becker, H. S. (2007). Writing for social scientists: how to start and finish your thesis, book, or article. 2nd ed. London: The University of Chicago Press.

2. Book (two or three authors):

In-text: (Carr and Brown, 2011)

In reference list:

Carr, A.B. and Brown, D.T. (2011). *McCracken's Removable Partial Prosthodontics*.12th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Mosby, Inc.

3. Book (four or more authors):

In-text: (Moore et al., 2010)

In reference list:

Moore, S., Neville, C., Murphy, M., and Connolly, C. (2010). *The ultimate study skills handbook*. Maidenhead: Open University Press.

4. Chapter in an edited book:

In-text: (Gegauff and Holloway, 2016).

In reference list:

Gegauff, A.G. and Holloway, J.A. (2016). Interim fixed restorations. In Rosenstiel, S.F., Land, M.F., Fujimoto, J. *Contemporary fixed*

prosthodontics. 5th ed. St. Louis, Missouri: Elsevier Inc., pp. 401-439.

5. Journal article:

In-text: (Davies, 1998)

In reference list:

Davies, J.E. (1998). Mechanisms of endosseous integration. *The International Journal of Prosthodontics*, 11,391-401.

Note: for multiple authors for journals, follow the same rules as for multiple authors for books but use the journal style.

6. Journal article (electronic):

In-text: (Yuill, 2016)

In reference list:

Yuill, C. (2016). The North Laine: a visual essay. *Sociological Research Online*, 17(1). [Online]. Available at: http://www.socresonline.org.uk/17/1/4.html [Accessed 12 April 2016].

7. Newspaper article (with author):

In-text: (Brady and Dutta, 2016)

In reference list:

Brady, B. and Dutta, K. (2016). 45,000 caught cheating at Britain's universities. *Independent on Sunday*, 11 March 2016, pp. 4-5.

8. Newspaper article (with no author):

In-text: (The Guardian, 2016)

In reference list:

The Guardian. (2016). Editorial: French elections. Bitter-sweet victory for the left, 23 April 2016, p. 26.

9. Website with author:

In-text: (Gillett, 2016)

In reference list:

Gillett, A. (2016). *Writing a list of references* [Online]. Understanding English for Academic Purposes. Available at: http://www.uefap.com/writing/writfram.htm[Accessed 12 Oct 2012].

10. Website with no author:

In-text: (BBC, 2011)

In reference list:

BBC (2011). *Working in nursing and care*. [Online]. Available at: http://www.bbc.co.uk/ skillswise/factsheet/jo09care-e3-f-workingin [Accessed 12 Oct 2016].

11. Doctoral or Master's Theses

In-text: (Abass, 2004)

In reference list:

Abass, S.M. (2004). Effect of Calcium Hypochlorite on Some Physical Properties of Dental Stone. Master's thesis, University of Baghdad.

12. Secondary referencing:

In-text: (Tserotas and Merino, 1998 as cited in Ogueta et al., 1999, p.1909) or Tserotas and Merino (1998) stated that...etc. (as cited in Ogueta et al., 1999, p.1909)

In reference list:

Ogueta, S.B., Schwartz, S.D., Yamashita, C.K, and Farber D.B. (1999). Estrogen Receptor in the Human Eye: Influence of Gender and Age on Gene Expression. *Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science*, 40, 1906-1911.

Note: in secondary referencing, you should only mention the source (secondary reference) you have read in the reference list and not the reference you didn't read (primary reference).

APPENDICES (OPTIONAL)

This section should be placed at the end and should contain supplementary information like figures, tables, raw data, and any other information that supports the study but don't belong to the main body of the study.

الخلاصة

في هذه الصفحة تكتب الخلاصة باللغة العربية.

صفحة العنوان

تكون هذه الصفحة كما في صفحة "Title Page" ولكن تكتب باللغة العربية.

THESIS GUIDELINE REFERENCES

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- Dirk, H. (2012). Guidelines on writing essays, bachelor, master and diploma thesis, Friedrich-Alexander University of Erlangen-Nürnberg School of Business and Economics Department of International Management.
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- Sabin, W.A. (2001). *The Gregg Reference Manual*, 9th edition, Burr Ridge Parkway United States of America: McGraw-Hill Companies.
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