

Folklore Papers Guide

Folklore is defined as “artistic communication in small groups” or “the aesthetics of everyday life.” This includes myths, legends and folktales, as well as riddles, proverbs, graffiti, food, ghost stories, slang, etc. It is studied using ethnographic (immersive, ground-up, consultant-based) research.

Folklore papers...

- are focused on what folklore means to its specific folk group and how this is useful/applicable to broader social and cultural concepts and/or issues
- are always written using the first person. Professors want students to consider their own positionality and ideas when studying folklore.
- include a clear thesis statement.
- often use ethnographic research materials (fieldnotes, personal interviews, etc.).
- most often follow Turabian Author-Date citation style.

Citing ethnographic materials:

Interviews are cited by the last name of the interviewee, and denoted ‘Personal Communication’ in the references.

Fieldnotes are cited by the last name of the person who wrote them.

In-text: include last name and year collected. (Knopp 2020).

On reference page: include full name, date collected, type of material, and location collected.

Knopp, Magdalyn. 2020. Fieldnotes. [Or: Personal Communication.] Jan 25, Feb 1. St. John’s, NL.

Turabian citation style:

There are two types of Turabian citation styles: Author-Date and Notes-Bibliography. Most professors accept either, but Author-Date is more common and practical for folklore papers.

Title pages and tables of contents are generally not necessary for folklore papers. There are no running heads. Page numbers are included in the bottom right-hand corner. Headings are used as necessary.

Author-Date:

In-text citations include the last name, year of publication and page number(s). Use n.d. to indicate no date. Example: (Knopp 2020, 10).

Full citations are included at the end of the paper under the heading “References.” All citations begin with the author(s) and then the year of publication.

Footnotes are used as necessary to include extra-textual information such as definitions.

Book example:

Jarvis, Dale. 2004. *Haunted Shores: True Ghost Stories of Newfoundland and Labrador*. St. John’s: Flanker Press Ltd.

Article example:

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Bascom, William R. 1954. "Four Functions of Folklore." *Journal of American Folklore* 67, no 266: 333-349.

Notes-Bibliography:

In-text citations are denoted by simply a superscript number, which corresponds to the citation in the footnote. If you cite the same source twice in a row, you may use *ibid* in the footnote. If you cite the same source multiple times in the paper, but not in a row, you may use a shortened footnote for the second and all further citations. A shortened note can be author-only or author-title. Some professors accept all shortened footnotes, with full citations included in the bibliography at the end.

Footnote (full):

1. Linda K. Fuller, *Chocolate Fads, Folklore & Fantasies: 1,000+ Chunks of Chocolate Information* (New York: Haworth Press, 1994), 54.

Footnote (shortened, author-only):

2. Fuller, 54.

Footnote (shortened, author-title):

3. Fuller, *Chocolate Fads, Folklore & Fantasies*, 54.

Bibliography:

Fuller, Linda K. *Chocolate Fads, Folklore & Fantasies: 1,000+ Chunks of Chocolate Information* New York: Haworth Press, 1994.