



References and General Format

If you were publishing in a journal, the editors' preferences or the conventions of the field would dictate the format used to cite information and organize the acknowledgements, references, and appendices at the end of the article. During your academic career, faculty preference will dictate the format you use. Most faculty assign APA or Chicago Style (a common biology reference format); others leave it up to their students. If you are unsure, or would like to practice the format used in your field, find a style guide in the list below. Most of these can be found online or in the Evergreen library. Ask a reference librarian for assistance.

Biology

Council of Biology Editors. *Scientific Style and Format: The CBE Manual for Authors, Editors, and Publishers*. 6th ed. New York, Cambridge UP, 1994.

- Available in the Evergreen Library.

Chemistry

The ACS Style Guide: A Manual for Authors and Editor; Dodd, Janet S., Ed.; American Chemical Society: Washington, DC, 1986.

- Available in the Evergreen Library. Includes information on all the standards required by ACS books and journals. Very thorough.

Geology

Bates, Robert L., Rex Buchanan, and Marla Adkins-Heljeson, eds. *Geowriting: A Guide to Writing, Editing, and Printing in Earth Science*. 5th ed. Alexandria: American Geological Institute, 1992.

- Not available at Evergreen, try Cascade or ILL.

Medicine

Iverson, Cheryl, et al. *American Medical Association Manual of Style*. 8th ed. Baltimore: Williams and Wilkins, 1989.

- Not available at Evergreen, try Cascade or ILL.

Science and Technical Writing

Rubens, Philip, ed. *Science and Technical Writing: A Manual of Style*. New York: Holt, 1992.

- Available in the Evergreen Library. This does not offer a specific format but rather a general format that can be used when the format to use is unsure. It is very similar to Chicago Style (see accompanying handout).

American national Standard for the Preparation of Scientific Papers for Written or Oral Presentation. New York: American National Standards Institute, 1979.

- Not available at Evergreen, try Cascade or ILL.



Parenthetical Citations

In Scientific text, you will almost never use direct quotes. However, you will almost certainly paraphrase information, use statistics or facts, or cite someone else's study. Below are several examples of information that might be cited and how to cite it, in the text of a write-up. The format used here is APA; for the format in a specific field, refer to a journal in that field. Note that a citation always occurs at the end of the sentence, and the period is always after the parentheses.

Types of information to cite:

- ∞ Fact not found in more than five sources

Example: *For a given quantity of a gas, the volume of a gas is inversely proportional to the pressure applied to it when the temperature is kept constant (Giancoli 1998).*

- ∞ Statistics (evidence containing specific numbers or percentages)

Example: *The human population has more than doubled since 1950, and is expected to double again by 2035 (Davidson et al. 2000).*

Note: *et al.* means that there are additional authors that are not listed in the citation. They should be listed in the references section.

- ∞ Another person's opinion or assertion

Example: *That soil, in general, is a probable source of chloroform was first discerned by Hoekstra and De Leer (1993).*

Note: You can state the author's name either in the text or in parentheses. The same is true of the date; i.e., you could say *In 1993, Hoekstra and De Leer discerned that soil . . .*

- ∞ The results of another scientist's work

Example: *Rudolph et al. found chloroform emission as a result of savanna fires (1995).*

- ∞ The result of a previous study you have published

Example: *Previously, we found that Cadmium binds loosely to the B. subtilis cell wall (Tay-Song 2000).*

What not to cite:

- ∞ Never use quotes! In scientific writing, you never quote the source directly. Always paraphrase and put information into your own words and sentence structure.
- ∞ Don't cite information or data derived directly from your experiment.
- ∞ Don't cite your own voice, hypothesis, assertions, interpretations or opinions, unless they were published previous to this paper.
- ∞ Don't cite general facts that are common knowledge, i.e. appear in more than five sources.

For information on paraphrasing, visit the Writing Center and ask for tips and a handout! Also, you can find more information on citing in APA style in our library.