

SLAC TIPS FOR CBE SCIENTIFIC DOCUMENTATION STYLE

When you use the words or original ideas of another person in your writing, you **must** cite the sources. If the exact words of the original source are used, quotation marks are necessary. Although paraphrasing or rewording of an original source does not require quotation marks, documentation of the source is still required. Failure to cite sources of information is **PLAGIARISM**.

There are several documentation formats; be sure to use the one your instructor assigns or finds acceptable. This handout involves the CBE format (for Council of Biology Editors, which developed this style), and is intended for use in lower division and introductory science courses. **If your major requires the CBE format, you should purchase a copy of the CBE manual.**

In the CBE format, which is used for most scientific papers and articles, you briefly identify your sources in the text of the paper, then give full information on the source in your list of references at the end of your paper. This serves the same purpose as footnotes/endnotes, but is integrated smoothly into the text of your paper, rather than listed separately. CBE offers two common methods of citing your sources, so ask your instructor which method is preferred.

METHOD I: NAME-YEAR SYSTEM

In the Name and Year System, the name(s) of the author(s) and the year of publication are included in a text citation. Placement of the parentheses depends on sentence structure:

One author: Bellrose (1950) or (Bellrose 1950)

Two authors: Bellrose and Lowe (1950) or (Bellrose and Lowe 1950)

Three or more authors: Bellrose et al. (1950) or (Bellrose et al. 1950)

Separate citations of different authors: (Dawson 1988; Briggs 1989)

Organization or committee report: National Research Council (1989) or (National Research Council 1989)

If no author, use title: *American Men of Science* (1967) or (*American Men of Science* 1967)

No date? Use "n.d.": Bellrose (n.d.) or (Bellrose n.d.)

Ex.: Bellrose et al. (1950) reported that wood ducks were once abundant in Illinois.

Ex.: Wood ducks were once abundant in Illinois (Bellrose et al. 1950).

Ex: ...and additional work (Dawson 1988; Briggs 1989) has shown that...

NOTE: Some instructors may require you to include page numbers in the citation: (Starrett 1965, p 75-79).

METHOD II: CITATION-SEQUENCE

In the Citation-Sequence System, a numeral in superscript is used in the text to refer to each source. This number is used as a reference throughout the paper, and the complete references are organized numerically at the end of the paper.

Ex.: Wood ducks were once abundant in Illinois³

Ex.: Bellrose and Lowe³⁻⁴ reported that wood ducks were once abundant in Illinois.

REFERENCE LIST

The Reference list at the end of your paper should include all of the sources that contributed ideas and information to your paper. It can be titled "Cited References" or "References."

The arrangement of references in your list depends on how you cited them in the text. In the **Name-Year** system, references are arranged alphabetically by the first word in the reference, whether it's a

person's last name, organization name, or the first word of a title (ignore "A," "An," and "The"). If you have two or more references by the same author, alphabetize by author; then arrange by date.

In the **Citation-Sequence** system, each reference appears in the order first mentioned in your text.

NOTE: If you have a type of reference not covered by the following examples, see *Scientific Style and Format, Sixth Edition*, Texas State library call number T11 .S386 1994 REFERENCE.

GENERAL FORMATS:

N-Y Author(s). Year. Article title. Journal title volume number(issue number):inclusive pages.

C-S Author(s). Article title. Journal title year month;volume number(issue number):inclusive pages.

EXAMPLES :

STANDARD JOURNAL ARTICLE

N-Y Steiner U, Klein J, Eiser E, Budkowski A, Fetters LJ. 1992 Nov 13. Complete wetting from polymer mixtures. *Science* 258(5085):1122-9.

Form of Citation: (Steiner and others 1992) [or]

Steiner U, Klein J, Eiser E, Budkowski A, Fetters LJ. 1992.
Complete wetting from polymer mixtures. *Science* 258:1122-9.

C-S Steiner U, Klein J, Eiser E, Budkowski A, Fetters LJ. Complete wetting from polymer mixtures. *Science* 1992 Nov 13;258(5085):1122-9.

ORGANIZATION AS AUTHOR

N-Y [SSCCCP] Scandinavian Society for Clinical Chemistry and Clinical Physiology, Committee on Enzymes. 1976. Recommended method for the determination of γ -glutamyltransferase in blood. *Scand J Clin Lab Invest* 36:119-25.

Form of Citation: (SSCCCP 1976)

C-S Scandinavian Society for Clinical Chemistry and Clinical Physiology, Committee on Enzymes. Recommended method for the determination of γ -glutamyltransferase in blood. *Scand J Clin Lab Invest* 1976;36:119-25.

ANONYMOUS ARTICLE

N-Y [Anonymous]. 1976. Epidemiology for primary health care. *Int J Epidemiol* 5:224-5.

Form of citation: (Anonymous 1976).

C-S [Anonymous]. Epidemiology for primary health care. *Int J Epidemiol* 1976;5:224-5.

Examples from *Scientific Style and Format: The CBE Manual for Authors, Editors, and Publishers, Sixth Edition*. (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1997).

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STUDENT LEARNING ASSISTANCE CENTER (SLAC)

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