

Citations

A citation is when the writer cites a reference. Citations appear throughout scientific written work, but most often in the introduction.

Purposes

- acknowledge the work of others
- show the writer's knowledge of the field
- shows evidence to support the writer's ideas
- places the writer's work into the broader context of the field
- enhances the credibility of the writer
- shows the readers where to find the source in the reference section

Usually general knowledge is not cited, because it can be easily found in a general reference book, such as a classroom textbook.

Citations have specific format requirements. The American Chemical Society (ACS) has approved three formats, and each ACS publication uses one of the three formats (most publications are journals).

Citation formats, p. 549

superscript number

1

italicized number
in parentheses

(1)

author name(s) and year (Walker, 2004)
in parentheses

Citations can be made in two ways.

1. After expressing a point or idea, provide only a citation using one of three formats:

See p. 547, Excerpts (*Cited*) 17A (superscript), 17B (italicized number), and 17ABCD titles “adapted ...” (name and year).

2. Use the author name(s) within the text and then provide the citation.

See p.550, Correct (g) and (h).

For two authors, we use “and”

For three or more authors, we use “et al.” which means “and others” (or we can use “and co-workers,” “and colleagues,” etc.)

Examples

Mencuccini¹ describes ...

Mencuccini (*1*) describes ...

Mencuccini (2005) describes ...

Begay and Fernandez² describe ...

Begay and Fernandez (2) describe ...

Begay and Fernandez (1994) describe ...

Tanaka et al.³ describe ...

Tanaka et al. (3) describe ...

Tanaka et al. (1988) describe ...

Practice with Exercise 17.8(a)-(d), p.556

References

References are an ordered list of the sources of information used to strengthen your written work. References appear as the last section in your work.

References have specific format requirements. The American Chemical Society (ACS) has approved two formats, and each journal uses one of the two.

Numerical listings: order the list according to when they appear in the written work.
(see p.559, Table 17.2)

Alphabetical listings: order the list alphabetically by last name of first author.
(see p.565, Tables 17.4 and 17.5)

Reference format should parallel citation formation (numbers with numerical list, names with alphabetical list).

Practice with Exercise 17.16., p.566