

HOW TO CITE SOURCES IN ENVIRONMENTAL WRITING

In much formal scholarly writing in scientific and environmental fields, **all citations occur in the text in parenthetical format**, with the author(s) and date of publication. Please use the below as a guideline, or see journals such as Evolution, Invertebrate Biology, or Ecology in the library or on JSTOR as examples of citation in-text and in your Literature Cited section. You may also wish to consult a style manual such as Victoria McMillan's Writing Papers in the Biological Sciences, but this is optional. Ask your instructor if you are still unsure of how correctly to cite, either in general or a particular source; ultimately *you* are responsible for proper citation! Remember that all statements that are not common knowledge or original to you must be cited, and not to let under-citing be your oversight.

IN-TEXT CITATION:

Each fact, claim, set of data, quote, or idea must be cited parenthetically in the text of your paper. Insert the citation either within the sentence containing the fact/idea that needs to be cited, or at the end of that sentence. It is often best to vary these two ways of citation to make your writing more interesting.

Use the following as an example:

“Parsons (1996) found that naked mole rats dig six times faster in desert soils than dung beetles do.”

Alternatively,

“Naked mole rats dig six times faster in desert soils than dung beetles do (Waldorf and Babcock 1996)”.

It's that simple! Be sure to list any sources you cite in the text at the end of your paper in the Literature Cited section, and list only those that you cite.

IMPORTANT NOTE: As a rule of thumb, if there are more than two authors of a source, simply use the first author's last name, followed by *et al.* (e.g. [Parsons *et al.* 2002]). This is Latin for “and others”. The complete list of authors should always appear in the full citation at the end of your paper, but never more than one or two should be named in the text to avoid cluttering the paper.

YOUR LITERATURE CITED SECTION (note: do not call it “bibliography” or “sources cited”)

Your **Literature Cited** section at the end of your paper should list all sources you cite in the text in alphabetical order by first author, and by year if there are multiple sources by the same author(s). Underline or *italicize* journal and book titles (either way, be consistent), but not the titles of individual articles in journals or edited (multi-authored) books. Use the following as examples for citing various kinds of sources, or consult a recent issue of one of the above journals.

NOTE: If you have two papers from the same year by the same author(s), you should differentiate them by using small letters after the year (Smith 1999b).

JOURNAL/NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:

Ahlberg, P.E. 1990. Glimpsing the hidden majority. Nature 344:23.

Briggs, D.E.G., A.J. Kear, D.M. Martell, and P.R. Welby. 1993. Phosphotization of soft-tissue in experiments and fossils. Journal of the Geological Society 150: 1035-8.

Williams, M. 1997. Teaching the net. Seattle Times, January 5th, p. C1.

BOOKS:

Gould, S.J. 1989. Wonderful Life: The Burgess Shale and the Nature of History. New York: W.W. Norton.

CHAPTERS IN EDITED (multiauthor) VOLUMES:

Always cite the individual chapter as follows, making sure your reader could easily find both the chapter and the book it appears in, as follows:

Behrensmeier, A. 1994. Taphonomy and the fossil record. IN M. Slatkin (ed.). Exploring Evolutionary Biology, pp. 55-63. Sunderland, Mass: Sinauer Associates, Inc.

Dzik, J. 1986. Chordate affinities of the conodonts. IN A. Hoffman and M. H. Nitecki (eds.), Problematic Fossil Taxa, pp. 240-54. New York: Oxford University Press.

CITING A GOVERNMENT REPORT OR OTHER "GRAY LITERATURE":

Berry, Helen D. and Betty Bookheim. 2000. Methods for conducting rapid assessment field surveys of aquatic nonindigenous species. Report, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Nearshore Habitat Division. Olympia, WA, 234 pages.

CITING A THESIS OR DISSERTATION:

Wonham, Marjorie A. 2002. Genetic analysis and ecological correlates of native and non-native mussel populations in the inland waters of Washington State (USA) and British Columbia, Canada. Ph.D. dissertation, University of Washington, Department of Zoology, 197 pages.

CITING SITES FROM THE INTERNET:

The complete web address should be presented so that anyone else could easily visit the same website. Additionally, identify the organization or individual sponsoring that site, the author(s) of the page if available, and the date that you accessed the site. Note that scholarly, peer-reviewed library sources are always to be preferred over internet sources, and that you should cite a journal article properly as designated above, even if you accessed it online using an e-journal. See a librarian or the instructor if you need clarification on this.

CITING A LECTURE:

Lecture, Y. Bauman, University of Washington, Seattle, 8 November 2006, ENVIR 100.

CITING A PERSONAL CONVERSATION OR TELEPHONE CONVERSATION:

In text in parentheses (G. W. Bush, *pers. comm.*).

CITING A VIDEO:

New horizons in esthetic dentistry [videocassette]. Wood, R. M., editor. Visualeyes Productions, producer. [Chicago] : Chicago Dental Society, 2005.

This should cover 99% of the citation issues you may run into. For others, please ask.