

CSE Documentation Style

For Scientific Papers

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. Though 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 prescribed by your instructor. This handout explains the CSE format (named after the Council of Science Editors, which developed it). The CSE format is widely used for documentation in the natural sciences: biologists, zoologists, earth scientists, geneticists, and other scientists.

CITING YOUR SOURCES

In the CSE format, you identify in the text of your paper the sources of information (references) you have used. This serves the same purpose as "footnotes," but is integrated smoothly into the text of your paper, rather than listed separately. The CSE style offers several methods of citing your references. You may pick one of the methods listed below or ask your instructor which method is preferred.

METHOD 1: The Name-and-Year Method.

List the last name(s) of the author(s) and the year of publication. These should be listed inside parentheses without being separated by commas. Some examples are:

One author, or editor: (Gribbin 1986)

Two authors: (Dotto and Schiff 1978)

Three or more authors: (Campbell et al. 1983) -or- (Campbell and others 1983)

Organization as author: (National Research Council 1982)

No author?: Use the first two or three words of the title and the year

No date?: Use "n.d."

Placement of the parentheses depends on whether you use the author's name in your text. For example:

It is estimated that a 10% reduction in ozone would cause a 20% - 40% increase in skin cancer (Dotto and Schiff 1978).

Dotto and Schiff (1978) estimated that a 10% reduction in ozone would cause a 20% - 40% increase in skin cancer.

Method II: The Number Method.

As each source is used in the text, it is indicated by a number in parentheses. For example:

It is estimated that a 10% reduction in ozone would cause a 20% - 40% increase in skin cancer (1).

If a source is used again later, reuse the original number. The complete references are listed at the end of the paper in the order they were numbered in your paper.

LISTING YOUR REFERENCES

The list of references (or bibliography) at the end of your paper should include all of the sources that contributed ideas and information to your paper. The heading CITED REFERENCES should be centered one inch from the top of the page. The arrangement of references in your list depends upon the method you used to cite sources in the text. In the name-and-year methods 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, arrange them alphabetically according to author, then by date. In the number method, each reference appears in the same order as it is first mentioned in your paper.

LITERATURE CITED

If you are using Methods I: Arranged alphabetically

EXAMPLE OF PAMPHLET, NO AUTHOR, NO CITY OF PUBLICATION, NO DATE

Can we save the ozone layer? N.p: Concerned Citizens Press, n.d.

EXAMPLE OF BOOK WITH TWO AUTHORS

Dotto, L., Schiff, H. The ozone war. Garden City, NY: Doubleday; 1978.

EXAMPLE OF BOOK WITH ORGANIZATION AS AUTHOR

National Research Council. Causes and effects of changes of stratospheric ozone reduction: an update. Washington DC: National Academy Press; 1982.

EXAMPLE OF SECOND BOOK BY SAME AUTHOR (the date determines the order)

National Research Council. Causes and effects of changes in stratospheric ozone: update 1983. Washington DC: National Academy Press; 1984.

If you are using Method II: Numbered as they first appear in text

EXAMPLE OF AN ARTICLE IN AN ONLINE PERIODICAL

1. 13. Isaacs FJ, Blake WJ, Collins JJ. Signal processing in single cells. Science [Internet]. 2005 Mar 25 [cited 2009 Jun 17]; 307(5717): 1886-1888. Available from: <http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/307/5717/1886>.

Example OF NEWSPAPER ARTICLE WITH AUTHOR

2. Shabecoff, P. As U.S. air quality deadline looms, cities are giving up hope of solution. The New York Times. 1987 Aug. 10: 8 col.1).

**EXAMPLE OF JOURNAL ARTICLE WITH AUTHOR, SUBTITLE,
DISCONTINUOUS PAGES**

3. Sand, P.H. Protecting the ozone layer: the Vienna Convention is adopted. *Environment* 27(5): 18-20, 40-43; 1985.

EXAMPLE OF MAGAZINE/JOURNAL ARTICLE, NO AUTHOR

4. Ozone layer at serious risk from worldwide chemical use. *Int. Wild.* 15 (July/Aug): 1985.

If you have a type of source not covered by the examples above, ask a SLAC tutor to show you the *CSE Style Manual* or visit the following website <http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/index.htm> for further information.

All examples are from the CBE Style Manual.

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