

## ACS Style 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition Guide – Citing Articles

### APSU Writing Center Handout

#### What is an in-text citation?

An in-text citation is a short reference within your writing that shows where your information came from.

There are different ways to cite in ACS style, but the following explains how to cite using superscripts.

- Sources are assigned numbers based on the order they appear in the text. The first source is given a superscript 1, the second a 2, and so on.
- Insert a small number after the relevant text.

**Example:** Oscillation in the reaction of benzaldehyde with oxygen was reported previously.<sup>3</sup>

#### What is a Reference Page?

The reference page lists full details of every source cited in your text. The in-text citation numbers correspond to this list.

References are numbered **in the order they appear in the paper** (not alphabetically).

Each number matches the corresponding in-text superscript citation.

All references should use a hanging indent (0.5 inches for lines after the first line).

#### Reference Example:

1. Lehman, J. W. *Operational Organic Chemistry: A Problem-Solving Approach to the Laboratory Course*, 4th ed.; Pearson Prentice Hall, 2009.

## ACS Style 3rd Edition - Citing Journal Articles

**In-text Citation Format:** superscript number.

- Use superscript numbers that correspond to the reference in your reference list.

### **Sentence with In-Text Citation Example 1:**

The reaction proceeds under mild conditions.<sup>1</sup>

### **Sentence with In-Text Citation Example 2:**

New insights into hydrogenase activation have improved understanding of enzyme function.<sup>2</sup>

### **Reference Format:**

Author, A. A.; Author, B. B.; Author, C. C. Title of Article. *Journal Abbreviation* **Year**, *Volume* (Issue), Page numbers. DOI

- *Journal Abbreviation* and *Volume* are italicized.
- **Year** is bold.

### **Reference Examples:**

1. Tan, G. Y.; Das, M.; Keum, H.; Bellotti, P.; Daniliuc, C.; Glorius, F. Photochemical single-step synthesis of  $\beta$ -amino acid derivatives from alkenes and (hetero)arenes *Nature Chemistry* **2022**, *14* (10), 1174–1184. DOI: 10.1038/s41557-022-01008-w
2. Kuchenreuther, J. M.; Britt, R. D.; Swartz, J. R. New Insights into [FeFe] Hydrogenase Activation and Maturase Function. *PLoS One* **2012**, *7* (9), e45850. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0045850

## ACS Style 3rd Edition - Citing Newspaper Articles

**In-text Citation Format:** superscript number.

- Use superscript numbers that correspond to the reference in your reference list.

**Sentence with In-Text Citation Example 1:**

A recent study involving students helped solve a long-standing crystal structure problem.<sup>1</sup>

**Sentence with In-Text Citation Example 2:**

Advances in renewable energy technologies continue to shape global sustainability efforts.<sup>2</sup>

**Reference Format:**

Author, A. A. Title of Article. *Newspaper Name*, Month Day, Year. URL

- *Newspaper name* is italicized.
- Year is not bolded in newspaper citations.

**Reference Examples:**

1. Demming, A. 'Doing something for the real world': How 1,000 UK schoolkids helped crack a crystals conundrum. *Guardian*, March 2, 2024.  
<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2024/mar/02/doing-something-for-the-real-world-how-1000-uk-schoolkids-helped-crack-a-crystals-conundrum>
2. Smith, J. Renewable energy breakthroughs accelerate global transition. *The New York Times*, January 15, 2025. <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/01/15/science/renewable-energy-breakthrough.html>

## ACS Style 3rd Edition - Citing Magazine Articles

**In-text Citation Format:** superscript number.

- Use superscript numbers that correspond to the reference in your reference list.

### **Sentence with In-Text Citation Example 1:**

New materials such as MXenes are showing promise for advanced technological applications.<sup>1</sup>

### **Sentence with In-Text Citation Example 2:**

Advances in battery technology are improving energy storage capabilities.<sup>2</sup>

### **Reference Format:**

Author, A. A. Title of Article. *Magazine Name* **Year**, *Volume* (Issue), Page numbers. DOI

- *Magazine name* and *volume* are italicized.
- **Year** is bold.

### **Reference Examples:**

1. Patel, P. Mighty MXenes: Ready to roll. *C&EN Global Enterprise* **2024**, *102* (9), 26–32.  
DOI: 10.1021/cen-10209-cover
2. Service, R. F. New battery technologies spark innovation in energy storage. *Science News* **2023**, *203* (5), 14–18. <https://doi.org/10.1021/example-doi>

## References

Concordia University Library. *ACS Citation Style*.

<https://www.concordia.ca/library/guides/chemistry/acs.html>

Dehler, N. *ACS Style Guide Online*. University of California, Berkeley.

<https://guides.lib.berkeley.edu/acs-style>

Vogel, T.; Cardinal, S.; Wrublewski, D.; Butkovich, N.; Baysinger, G. *ACS Style Quick Guide*.

American Chemical Society. <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/full/10.1021/acsguide.40303>