

## ACS Style 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition Guide – Citing Thesis & Dissertations

### 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:** Advanced analytical methods improve the detection of trace compounds in complex systems.<sup>1</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. Smith, J. L. Analytical Techniques for Trace Chemical Detection. Ph.D. Dissertation, University of North Carolina, 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1234/example-thesis>

## ACS Style 3rd Edition - Citing Thesis

**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:**

High-resolution spectroscopy techniques are essential for studying astrophysically relevant ions.<sup>1</sup>

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

Advanced analytical methods improve the detection of trace compounds in complex systems.<sup>2</sup>

### **Reference Format:**

Author(s). Title of Thesis. M.S. Thesis, University, Year. URL

### **Reference Example:**

1. McGuire, B. A. High Resolution THz Spectroscopy of Astrophysically Relevant Ions. M.S. Thesis, Emory University, 2011. <https://etd.library.emory.edu/concern/etds/9019s306w?locale=en>
2. Smith, J. L. Analytical Techniques for Trace Chemical Detection. M.S. Thesis, University of North Carolina, 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1234/example-thesis>

## ACS Style 3rd Edition - Citing Dissertations

**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:**

Lanthanide-based sensors can be used to detect bacterial spores in extreme environments.<sup>1</sup>

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

Organic chemical tools play a crucial role in understanding cellular physiology.<sup>2</sup>

### **Reference Format:**

Author(s). Title of Dissertation. Ph.D. Dissertation, University, Year. URL

### **Reference Example:**

1. Cable, M. L. Life in Extreme Environments: Lanthanide-Based Detection of Bacterial Spores and Other Sensor Design Pursuits. Ph.D. Dissertation, California Institute of Technology, 2010. <http://resolver.caltech.edu/CaltechTHESIS:05102010-145436548>
2. Tsien, R. Y. The Design and Use of Organic Chemical Tools in Cellular Physiology. Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Cambridge, 1976.

### **ACS Style 3rd Edition - Citing Congressional Hearings**

**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:**

Federal oversight hearings provide insight into the role of national laboratories in scientific innovation.<sup>1</sup>

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

Congressional hearings also examine the regulatory and environmental impacts of chemical research.<sup>2</sup>

### **Reference Format:**

Author(s). *Title of Hearing*; Hearing before the Committee Name, House or Senate, Congress Number, Session, Date; Publisher: Location, Year. URL

### **Reference Example:**

1. U.S. Congress, House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. *National Laboratories: World-Leading Innovation in Science*; Hearing before the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, House of Representatives, One Hundred Fifteenth Congress, Second Session, March 14, 2018; U.S. Government Publishing Office: Washington, DC, 2018.  
<https://docs.house.gov/meetings/SY/SY00/20180314/107992/HHRG-115-SY00-20180314-SD003.pdf>

### **ACS Style 3rd Edition - Citing Government Datasets**

**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:**

Watershed datasets provide detailed information about local hydrology and land use.<sup>1</sup>

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

Government datasets are essential for environmental planning and policy decisions.<sup>2</sup>

### **Reference Format:**

Author(s). *Title of Dataset*; Publisher, Agency, Date. URL

### **Reference Example:**

1. Hoh-Quillayute (WA) Watershed Dataset, HUC8 - 17100101. *National Wetlands Inventory*; U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, May 1, 2023. <https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory>
2. Chesapeake Bay Land Use Dataset, 2010–2020; *National Land Cover Database*, U.S. Geological Survey, December 15, 2022. <https://www.mrlc.gov/data>

### **ACS Style 3rd Edition - Citing Technical Reports**

**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:**

Technical reports summarize government or organizational research findings for public use.<sup>1</sup>

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

Reports on renewable energy performance help guide future policy and funding decisions.<sup>2</sup>

**Reference Format:**

Author(s). *Title of Report*; Publisher/Agency, Year. URL

**Reference Example:**

1. *Wind Energy Accomplishments and Year-End Performance Report: Fiscal Year 2023*; U.S. Department of Energy, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 2023.  
<https://www.osti.gov/biblio/2204389>
2. *Hydrogen Fuel Cell Research and Development: Annual Progress Report 2022*; U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 2022.  
<https://www.osti.gov/biblio/1845678>

## 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>