

ACS Style 3rd Edition Guide – Citing Websites & Social Media

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.³

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 Websites

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:

ACS publications provide access to a wide range of chemistry research articles.¹

Sentence with In-Text Citation Example 2:

Online citation guides help students correctly format scientific references.²

Reference Format:

Author(s). *Title of Website/Page*. URL

Reference Example:

1. American Chemical Society. *ACS Publications Home Page*. <https://pubs.acs.org/>
2. Concordia University Library. *ACS Citation Style*.
<https://www.concordia.ca/library/guides/chemistry/acs.html>

ACS Style 3rd Edition - Citing Blogs

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 formation of scum on tea is caused by reactions between minerals in water and tea compounds.¹

Sentence with In-Text Citation Example 2:

The composition of tea can vary depending on brewing conditions and water chemistry.²

Reference Format:

Author(s). Title of Blog Post. *Blog/Website Name*. Date. URL

Reference Example:

1. Brunning, A. National Tea Day: What causes the scum on tea? *Compound Interest*, April 23, 2023. <https://www.compoundchem.com/2023/04/21/tea/>
2. Brunning, A. The chemistry of tea brewing. *Compound Interest*, May 10, 2022. <https://www.compoundchem.com/2022/05/10/tea-brewing/>

ACS Style 3rd Edition - Citing Facebook and Instagram

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 American Chemical Society shared accessibility tips for improving communication.¹

Sentence with In-Text Citation Example 2:

Professionals are encouraged to engage with career transition discussions on social media.²

Reference Format:

Author. Title of Post; *Platform*, Month Day, Year. URL

Reference Examples:

1. American Chemical Society. In recognition of Global Accessibility Awareness Day (#GAAD), we're sharing 4 tips from our ACS Inclusivity Style Guide of how you can improve your digital and print communications. *Facebook*, May 16, 2024.
2. amerchemsociety Ask a question if you're going through a career transition. Answer a question if you have made a career transition. *Instagram*, May 15, 2024.
<https://www.instagram.com/p/C7AmJTZMSUx/?hl=en>

ACS Style 3rd Edition - Citing YouTube Videos

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 chemistry behind fictional materials like Valyrian steel has been explored in popular media.¹

Sentence with In-Text Citation Example 2:

Chemical reactions and safety concepts are often explained through engaging video demonstrations.²

Reference Format:

Author(s). Title of Video; *Publisher/Channel*, Platform, Month Day, Year. URL

Reference Examples:

1. Conell, R.; Zamieroski, K.; Gentleman, D.; Waghorn, N.; Dylewski, A. Game of Thrones Science: Sword Making and Valyrian Steel. *Reactions*. American Chemical Society. YouTube, April 15, 2015. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cHRcGoje4j4>
2. American Chemical Society. Periodic Table Song; Reactions: *American Chemical Society*, YouTube, January 8, 2013. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U2cfju6GTNs>

ACS Style 3rd Edition - Citing Podcasts

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:

Scientific topics are often communicated through storytelling in podcast interviews.¹

Sentence with In-Text Citation Example 2:

Podcasts can also explore how chemistry applies to everyday life and health topics.²

Reference Format:

Author(s). Title of Episode; *Podcast Title*, Publisher, Month Day, Year. URL

Reference Examples:

1. Zomorodi, M.; Cloutier, M.; Meshkinpour, S. Breaking, entering and eating—what happens when bears break the law? *TED Radio Hour*. National Public Radio, October 21, 2022 (interview with Mary Roach as part of episode Crimes in the Wild).
<https://www.npr.org/2022/10/14/1130258985/breaking-entering-and-eating-what-happens-when-bears-break-the-law>
2. Neil deGrasse Tyson; Paul Mecurio. The Science of Taste; *StarTalk Radio*, National Geographic, March 5, 2017. <https://www.startalkradio.net/show/the-science-of-taste/>

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>