Formatting Author-Date Citations and Reference Lists

Author-Date Citations

Use this method of citation for the social sciences and natural sciences. Before proceeding with this style, ask your editor if it is appropriate for your book.

1. Give author’s last name and year of publication in the text (in parentheses) or in endnotes: (Gould 1997).

2. If the author’s name appears in the text itself, then put only the date in parentheses: (1997).

3. For direct quotations, include a page number: (Gould 1997, 34) or (1997, 34).

4. If more than one work is cited, separate the citations with semicolons: (Gould 1997, 34; Mayr 1980).

5. For more than two authors of a single work, use “et al.”: (Yogman et al. 1976).

6. For two works published in the same year by the same author, use “a” and “b”: (Gould 1995a) or (Gould 1995a,b).

7. Arrange citations in either chronological or alphabetical order. Be consistent.

Reference Lists

1. Give full citations in one separate alphabetical list (“References”) in the backmatter.

2. For each entry, give the author’s last name first, followed by a comma, and the author’s first name. If there are two or more authors, give the other authors’ names in [first name last name] order.

3. Double-check all citations in the text or notes against the references for accuracy. Be sure that each citation in the text is included in the reference list.

4. For questions not covered by these brief instructions and the examples below, consult the most recent edition of The Chicago Manual of Style (available online) or discuss with your editor.
Sample References


