

# Council of Biology Editors (CBE) Style

CBE Style is used primarily by writers in the natural sciences, the physical sciences, and mathematics. This style emphasizes brevity and simplicity to allow for the large number of citations that can frequently accompany scientific writing.

## In-text Citations

There are two major types of in-text citations in CBE: citation-sequence and name-year.

**Citation sequence (C-S):** Place a superscript number, like this<sup>1</sup>, or a number in parentheses, like this (2), after the referring text. Once you have cited a source, use the same number to refer to that source throughout the paper. If more than one source is cited, separate the numbers with commas and no spaces, like this<sup>1,3,11-14</sup> or this (1,3,11-14). The C-S style is the least intrusive on the flow of the text.

**Name-year (N-Y):** Place the author's last name and the publication year in parentheses following the text, like this (Connors 1998).

Same-Author Documents Published in Different Years: (Miller 1999, 2002).

Same-Author Citations, 2 or More Documents in the Same Year: (Douglass 1998a, 1998b).

Two-Author Citations: (Gregg and Justice 1976)

Three-or-More-Author Citations: (Daub and others 1980).

Multiple Citations at 1 Point: (Roberts 2004; Lee 2003).

Authors with Identical Surnames: (Smith GL 1999; Smith B 2000).

*Notice that punctuation follows the parentheses.*

## References List

If your in-text citations follow the **citation-sequence (C-S)** format, your References page should contain numbered entries in their order of appearance within your text. Note that the entries are not in alphabetical order, nor is any marking (underlining or quotation marks) used for article titles. For example:

1 Stalberg E, Trontelj JV. We want to pump you up: studies in healthy and diseased muscle. New York: Raven; 2002. 291 p.

2 Freidson E. Profession of medicine. New York: Dodd-Mead; 1972. 802 p.

If your citations are in the **name-year (N-Y)** format, don't number the list, and arrange the entries in alphabetical order. In N-Y style, the year of publication follows the author's name. For example:

Freidson E. 1972. Profession of medicine. New York: Dodd-Mead. 802 p.

Stalberg E, Trontelj JV. 2002. We want to pump you up: studies in healthy and diseased muscle. New York: Raven. 291 p.

# CBE Style (Continued)

## General Format for Books

**C-S:** Author(s) [or editor(s)]. Title. Place of publication: publisher name; Year. Number of pages.

**N-Y:** Author(s) [or editor(s)]. Year. Title. Place of publication: publisher name. Number of pages.

Book with a Single Author (**C-S**): Callister WD. Materials science and engineering : an introduction. 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Wiley & Sons; 2003. 848 p.

Book with Two to Ten Authors (**N-Y**): Botkin, DB, Keller EA. 2003. Environmental science: earth as a living planet. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Wiley & Sons. 752 p.

## General Format for Journal Articles

**C-S:** Author(s). Article title. Journal title year month;volume number(issue number):inclusive pages.

**N-Y:** Author(s). Year. Article title. Journal title volume number(issue number):inclusive pages.

Standard Journal (**C-S**): Steiner U, Klein J, Eiser E, Budkowski A, Fetters LJ. Complete wetting from polymer mixtures. Science 1992 Nov 13;258(5085):1122-9.

## General Format for Internet Sites

Author(s). Title [Optional Content Designator Optional Medium Designator]. Place of Publication: Publisher; Date of Publication [Date of Update/Revision; Date of Citation]. Availability. (Language). Notes.

*Remember to capitalize only the first word of a title. No underlining, italicizing, or quotation marks are needed. There are two main styles of CBE citations (C-S & N-Y)—be careful not to get them confused!*

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## More Examples from the Council of Style Editors

Number Style: <[http://www.councilscienceeditors.org/publicationsssf\\_numberstyle.cfm](http://www.councilscienceeditors.org/publicationsssf_numberstyle.cfm)>

Citing the Internet: <[http://www.councilscienceeditors.org/publications/citing\\_internet.cfm](http://www.councilscienceeditors.org/publications/citing_internet.cfm)>

## Credit

Much of the material on this handout was taken from The CBE Manual for Authors, Editors, and Publishers, 6th ed. Cambridge: Cambridge UP; 1999. 825 p.