

John Burroughs School Science Department

Guidelines for Referencing Sources and Creating Bibliographies for Science Papers and Reports

Prepared by Margaret Bahe, Science Dept. Chair, 2002

INTRODUCTION:

Whenever information is gathered from another source and used in a science research paper or laboratory report, the source needs to be cited in the body of the paper or report and acknowledged with a full bibliographic citation at the end of the paper or report. The Science Department bases its guidelines for referencing sources and creating bibliographies on the system created by the American Psychological Association (APA). Included here in this document are examples of how to (1) cite a source from within your written text, (2) cite a source for a lengthy quotation, and (3) create a bibliographic list of all sources used for the writing of your paper or report.

Much more detailed information is available in the APA's book, Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 3rd Edition, (1983) and on APA's website online at <http://www.apastyle.org/>.

In Text Citations

With references use only the last name of the author(s) and the source's year of publication. Here are three alternatives:

1. In 1999, Steinkamp and Mueller found that ...
2. Schober (2002) reported that ...
3. Another viewpoint (Heinzel and Goran, 1989) indicates that ...

In Text Quotations

Close to a direct quote the writer must identify (to Credit the author and to avoid accusations of plagiarism) the author of the quote, year of publication, and page numbers of the quote.

Examples:

1. Bahe stated that "Drey Land is my favorite place to be" (1994, p. 7).
2. Taylor is remembered for his observation, "the sun always rises in the east" (1980, p. 305).
3. A long quote is typed in an indented, block form placing the pertinent citation at the end of the quote:
(Use this style if more than 40 words.)

We played so well on Wednesday, but this does not mean that we will just walk on the field and good soccer will just appear. Do not take our game for granted. Good soccer takes work. Remember each of you has a responsibility to play the game with respect, compete hard, and relentlessly assert our style and tactics on our opponent, totally suffocating their game. (McDoniel, 2002, p. 1)

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In Lists at the End of a Manuscript

References – On a separate sheet of paper center the word, References, at the top of the page. Order the sources alphabetically by the author(s)' last name(s). Type the first line of each reference at the left margin and indent the remainder of the entry three spaces. Double space within each entry and double space between. (*If Book or article name you don't need to capitalize anything except the first word.*)

Brinkhorst, B. (1999). Hiking in Colorado and the western United States. New York: Ivy Press.

Childress, E. & Jensen, H. J. (1984). How to make lifelong friends. Journal of American Emotions, 4, 112-115.

Goran, D. & Tracy, P. (1970). Using seminars with 9th graders . In D. Eckwart & M. Johnson (Eds.), Teaching health to high school students . (p.210-221). Chicago: University Press.

Harris, M. (2002). Classroom rules and grading. Retrieved October 6, 2002 from <http://www.jburroughs.org/science/mharris/pagetwo.html>.

Heinzel, S. (1992). Thoughts on coaching tennis. Unpublished manuscript, Stanford University, Palo Alto.

Knispel, E. & Harris, M. (1997, March). A study of polymers in athletic shoes. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Shoe Manufacturers, Williamsburg.

Schober, M & Brinkhorst B. (2002). Using Six Flags as a physics field trip. *Physics Teachers Online*, 4, 10 - 14. Retrieved May, 1, 2002 from <http://www.physicsteachersonline/articles/feature2.html>.

Steinkamp, R. (2001) Teaching tips from a first year chemistry teacher. American Chemistry Teacher, 25, 70 - 72. CD Newsbank, Newsbank, Inc.

Other Sources

Students may also find the John Burroughs School History Department's "Manual for Student Research Projects" helpful when citing sources. "Appendix J: Sample Entries for the Bibliography", available online at <http://www.jburroughs.org/history/manual.html#appa> may prove helpful when creating citations for sources of a type for which examples are not provided above. Do note that the form of the History Department citations and the Science Department citations are not identical and modifications will need to be made to fit the science guidelines.

The variety of material available on the Web and the number of ways it's structured and organized presents challenges for creating usable and useful references. When citing internet sources, try to direct readers as closely as possible to the information being cited. Reference specific documents rather than home pages. Always provide addresses that work. As a minimum, a reference of an Internet source should provide a document title or description, a date (either a date of publication or update and at least the date of retrieval) and an URL address. Whenever possible, identify the authors of the document as well. These pages on the APA's Website provide helpful information about referencing and citing internet sources: <http://www.apastyle.org/electmedia.html>, <http://www.apastyle.org/electgeneral.html>, <http://www.apastyle.org/electtext.html> and <http://www.apastyle.org/electsource.html>.

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Conclusion

Notice that many of your textbooks use this format. The important caution to remember is that any reader must be easily able to retrieve the sources you cite.

Always consult your instructors about the format preferred for the content area being taught.

Acknowledgment

This document is based on a class handout first prepared by and used with the permission of Hazel Jensen, teacher at John Burroughs School.