A Guide to Referencing Styles

What you need to know

Referencing styles are established systems of referencing that have consistent rules. The requirements of a referencing style incorporate the two elements of a referencing system:

1. **in-text citations** such as author-date citations or footnotes
2. **reference lists** or **bibliographies**

There are numerous referencing styles, each with different origins and features. Some disciplines have developed their own citation style. For example, the American Psychological Association (APA style) was developed specifically for Psychology. Some disciplines have adopted APA as their standard citation style, while other disciplines may use a range of referencing styles.

Familiarise yourself with the referencing style requirements for each of your courses. Some students may need to use several different referencing styles across their academic career.

Consistency is most important; ensure you do not mix referencing styles within one piece of writing.

Which style do I use?

To find out:

- check the instructions in your assessment task or unit outline
- ask your lecturer or tutor
- consult your course handbook
- refer to the table overleaf for a general guideline

How do I reference?

FedCite is one of the key sources of help for referencing at Federation University. FedCite is an online tool that provides examples of how to use the four official citation styles supported at FedUni, which are APA, MLA, IEEE & Chicago Note citation styles.

Find FedCite here: **federation.edu.au/library/fedcite**

Other support is available to help you gain skills in referencing, including:

- Senior students at the Peer Support Desk in your campus library
- Learning Skills Advisors (LSAs) at the Study Hub on your campus during semester
- Library staff

Read about these and other resources available to help you with citation at FedUni: **https://www.federation.edu.au/students/study-skills/find-study-support/**

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Various referencing styles

Style	Features	Author/Organisation	General field
ACS		American Chemical Society	Chemistry
AIP		American Institute of Physics	Physics
APA	Author and date in text	American Psychological Association	Psychology, Education, Anthropology, and other Social and Behavioural Sciences
Chicago/Turabian	Author-date and/or note system	University of Chicago Press	Humanities, Social, Biological and Physical Sciences, Performing and Visual Arts
Harvard	Author and date in text	Harvard University	Natural Sciences, Social Sciences and Education, Business
IEEE		Institute for Electronics & Electrical Engineers	Electronics, Electrical Engineering
MLA	Author and page number in text	Modern Languages Association of America	Humanities: Modern Languages, Literature, and other fields
Oxford or Footnoting system	Number in text, details in notes for each entry		Arts, History, English, Literature
Vancouver	Number in text for each source	Developed at a meeting in Vancouver, 1988	Medicine, Humanities

Related helpsheets

- APA7 Referencing
- MLA Referencing
- Chicago Referencing
- IEEE Referencing