Environmental Studies – Policy (APA, 6th edition)
Citing Literature

After finding the references you need for your research, it is important that they are cited accurately and in some standard manner. In English classes, you may have used MLA style. Citation styles differ by field and, often, between journals within the same field. For your ES honors thesis, please use the APA citation style.

A. **Endnote**

**We recommend that you use EndNote for managing your references and citations. You can direct EndNote to use the APA formatting style, but it is always good to look over your citations to make sure that everything is formatted properly. For information about using EndNote at Colby, visit [http://libguides.colby.edu/research-help](http://libguides.colby.edu/research-help). EndNote is installed on all of the ES and library computers at Colby.**

B. **Citing Authors in Body of Text**

Footnotes are rarely used in environmental writing for citing references. Instead, the reference is noted in the body of the text by author(s) and date of publication. The authors of your reference may be used as the subject of your sentence or may be noted at the end of the sentence in parentheses. If one or two authors have written a paper, list their last names in the text followed by the date of publication. If the article is **coauthored by three or more persons**, list only the first author in the text followed by “et al.” and the date of publication:

- Predation and competition are the primary determinants of the structure and functioning of ecological systems (Sih & Boyle, 1998).
- According to Lamberti and Resh (1983), insect grazers limit algal growth in many but not all streams.
- To test the effect of oil on Alaskan caribou, experimental groups of animals was doused with crude oil while controls were sprayed only with water (Shell et al., 1970).

If **more than one paper** has been published about a given topic, list all relevant authors, but separate authors of different papers by commas and order the papers by date, oldest first. Within a particular year, order the papers alphabetically by author:

- Species-specific traits can directly influence the soil environment, biochemical cycles, and interactions with other plant and animal species (Wardle et al., 1998; Eviner & Chapin, 2003; Smith, 2003)

If you cite **two or more papers written by an author(s) in the same year**, place a small letter after the date to distinguish between papers – do this both in-text and in the Literature Cited:

- The shape and power of tarsus, toes, and talons are generally considered adaptations to the type and size of prey taken by birds of prey (Orr, 1971; Brown, 1976a). For example,
an increase in tarsus length provides an advantage to the Collared Sparrowhawk by enabling the greatest reach possible in the final lunge to snatch prey (Brown, 1976b).

For **electronic documents** like government web pages with **known authors**, cite like you would for other sources, with the author and year. If **the date is unknown**, use “n.d.” for “no date”:

Biologists from Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife monitor moose populations by performing aerial surveys from helicopters in winter, when it is easier to count the moose against a snowy, white landscape (Kantar, n.d.).

For **electronic documents** like government web pages with **unknown authors**, you may use the name of the agency or organization that published the document:

Because natural salt deposits are rare in forested Maine, moose have been observed licking road salt to supplement their diets (Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, n.d.).

Alternatively, if the **author is unknown** and the **electronic document** is not associated with an agency or organization, you can use the first few words of the title of the document in the parenthetical citation:

Moose are commonly found throughout Greenville, Maine; as many as 11 have been reported around West Branch Pond in one day (“Sightings in Maine,” n.d.)

For **personal communications**, including emails and interviews:

A rare, solitary, immature Golden Eagle was sited near Flood Farm in Benton, Maine throughout January, 2013 (R. Speirs, personal communication, January 24, 2013).

**C. Reference Section**
All sources cited in the body of your paper/report must be completely referenced in a section at the end entitled **REFERENCES**. List alphabetically in the References only those papers, books, or web sources that you mentioned in the text. If you found 294 articles pertaining to your subject matter, but only reported on three of them in the paper, then the reference list will contain three entries. If you cite more than one paper written by the same author(s) in different years, list these publications chronologically. References for books should not be separated from those for journals. Use the complete names of journals when listing a citation in the reference section.

Cite **journal articles** in the following manner:


The above citation indicates that the paper appeared in Ecology in 2007, Volume 88, Issue 10, pages 2415 through 2426.
For **multiple authors**, see below. Note that the order of the authors’ last names and initials switch after the first author:


A correct citation for information published in a **book** should include: location of publisher and publisher’s name:


For a **chapter in a book compiled by editors**:


Cite **web sites** in the following manner. Make sure to remove hyperlinks:

**With author:**


**Without author:**


**Without author, no date:**


There are now a few **open-source journals** that publish on the web and, as a result, do not follow the volume/page number format for citations. They are cited as follows:

**Government reports** can be cited as follows:


Increasingly, journals require authors to cite **statistics programs**:


**D. Evaluating Web Pages**
The web is a wonderful resource and provides access to a tremendous wealth of information. However, you must be careful to evaluate the quality of the information you obtain from this source. The Colby library page provides a link to helpful information you can utilize to evaluate the web sites you discover (http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/). You should assess the quality and reliability of any information found on the web before including it in your reports/papers.

If you deem the web information you find appropriate for inclusion in your report after proper evaluation, the web site must be cited in your text. Use the web page title and date to cite the web site in the text of your report/paper (in a similar way to the author-date system described above) and use the format shown below for listing your source in the Reference section.

**E. Other Resources for Literature Citations**
Other rules govern citations such as articles and books written by authors with foreign names and literature published by private organizations. If you are confronted with one or more of these problems consult the Science Library Website.