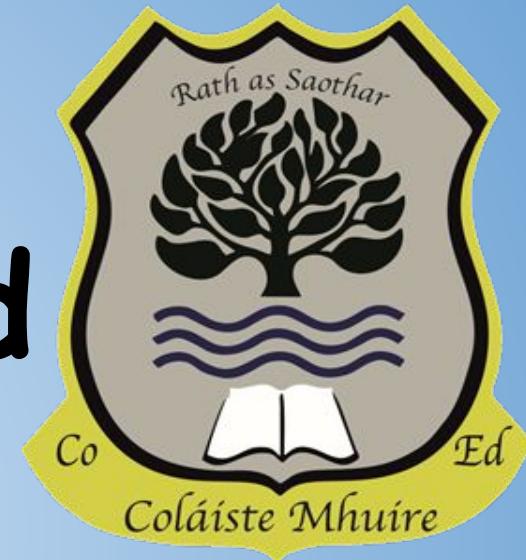# A Guide to Harvard Referencing Style

Colaiste Mhuire Co Ed Thurles

What's Referencing & Why Bother?

Referencing is like giving a shout-out! It's how you show where you found your information.

Helps Others:

If someone reads your project and loves a fact you used, they can use your reference to find the original book or website and learn even more!

No Copying Cat!

It shows your teacher you've done your own thinking and haven't just copied someone else's work (that's called plagiarism, and it's a no-no!).

It's Fair:

You give credit to the person who did the hard work of writing the information. It's like saying "Thanks for the cool fact!"

Basically: Referencing is about being honest, giving credit, and helping others!

The Two Main Parts of Harvard Referencing

In-Text Citation (In Your Writing)

This is a quick note inside the sentences you write. It tells your reader straight away where that bit of information came from. It's short and sweet!

Reference List (At The End)

This is a list at the very end of your project. It gives all the details about every source you mentioned in your in-text citations. This is where people look if they want to find the original book or website.

Think of it like this:

The in-text citation is a clue, and the reference list gives the full answer! You need both!

Part 1 - In-Text Citations (The Clue in Your Writing!)

Basic Rule

You just need two things in brackets:

- The Author's Last Name
- The Year the book or website was published

Examples

"The main character discovers a hidden world (Rowling, 2001)."

"Some spiders can spin amazing webs (Smith, 2020)."

This is the super quick note you put in your own sentences.

Super Simple, Right? Just (Author, Year)!

Part 2 - The Reference List (All The Details!)

For a BOOK (with one author)

Author's Last Name, First Initial. (Year of publication) *Title of Book in Italics*. Place of Publication: Publisher.

Example:

Dahl, R. (1982) *The BFG*. London: Jonathan Cape.

For a WEBPAGE (with an author)

Author's Last Name, First Initial. (Year page was last updated or published) *Title of Webpage in Italics*. Available at: Full Web Address (Accessed: Day Month Year you saw it).

Example:

Feltman, R. (2022) *Why Do We Yawn and Why Is It Contagious?*. Available at: https://www.popsci.com/story/science/why-do-we-yawn-contagious/ (Accessed: 25 May 2025).

For a WEBPAGE (no author, but an organisation)

Name of Organisation. (Year page was last updated or published) *Title of Webpage in Italics*. Available at: Full Web Address (Accessed: Day Month Year you saw it).

Example:

Nasa. (2023) *Mars Perseverance Rover*. Available at: https://mars.nasa.gov/mars2020/ (Accessed: 25 May 2025).

Top Tips!

Start Early

Don't leave it until the last minute! Note down the details as you find information.

Be a Detail Detective

Look carefully for the author, year, title, etc.

Ask for Help

If you're stuck, ask your teacher. They are railways here to help!

Alphabetical Order

Your Reference List at the end should be in A-Z order by the author's last name.

Practice Makes Perfect: The more you do it, the easier it gets!

Happy Referencing!