

What is citation? What is referencing?

In university, your lecturers may ask you to 'reference all your sources' or make sure 'your citations are in order'. You may find yourself confused with these two terms, citation and referencing, because sometimes we use *one* of them to refer to *both*. For example, if your lecturer asks you to 'make sure your referencing is accurate and complete', they mean *both* citation and referencing. What is the difference?

CITATION appears in the body of your text (your assignment), while REFERENCES come at the very end of your assignment, usually on a separate page. This page may be called: References / Reference List / Works Cited / Bibliography. Basically, every citation used in your text will have a corresponding reference at the end of the paper.

There are different citation and referencing styles, and your School/Programme will tell you which one to use. For example, you may be asked to use Harvard, MLA, APA, Chicago, or a different style. If you are not sure which style you are expected to use, or how to use these different styles, go to this Library page: <https://libguides.ucd.ie/academicintegrity> and click on 'School citing styles'.

CITATION

Imagine you are writing an assignment on the Americanization of the Irish society. This could be one of your sentences:

Even though Irish society is becoming increasingly Americanised, Ireland has similarly been idealised in American popular culture, often represented as "a place of unspoilt beauty and a traditional way of life" (Bennett 98).

This is your citation: (Bennett 98).

It is written in MLA style, which identifies the name of the author and the page where you found the quotation.

This is another citation, this time in Harvard style:

While these cancer cells can still grow and survive, recent evidence suggests that there is always a limit, depending on levels of acidity (Zhang, 2020).

This is your citation: (Zhang, 2020).

As you can see, Harvard style identifies the name of the author and the year of publication.

Some citation styles may require a footnote instead of bracketed information.

REFERENCING

Your Reference List/ Works Cited /Bibliography page will come at the end of your assignment. Here, you will give full details of the sources you mentioned in your text (in your citations). For example, when writing about Irish and American culture, you quoted from page 98 of Bennett’s book. Now is the time to tell your reader the full name of the author, the name of the book, the publisher, the year of publication. So, the full reference for a book in MLA style will look like this:

Bennett, Janel. *Perceptions of Irish Identity*. Palgrave, 2007.

You can check the library website for sample Reference List in the style you use. Go to <https://libguides.ucd.ie/academicintegrity/>. If the style you use is Harvard, click on ‘Harvard Style Guide’, and this is what you will see, a sample Reference List:

Hayes, B. C., McAllister, I. and Dowds, L. (2011) 'Depicting Ireland on film, what are we really saying?', *Social Cinema Journal*, 54(4), pp. 454-482.

Jervir, C. E. O. (2010) 'Symbolic violence, resistance and how we view ourselves in Irish film', *World Cinema*, 37(6), pp. 392-407.

MacDougall, H. (2009) 'Who needs Hollywood?: The role of popular genre films in Irish national cinema', *The Canadian Journal of Irish Studies*, 35(1), pp. 39-46.

Moriarty, D. (2012) *Funding models for Irish film makers*. Dublin: Collins Press.

Remember: Your references should be listed in alphabetical order!

Conclusion: When you summarise, paraphrase, or quote ideas and facts from a particular source (book, journal article, lecture, website etc.), you have to mention that source **twice**: once in the body of your text (CITATION) and once in your Reference List (REFERENCE).

CITATION briefly tells your reader where you got your information, i.e. which source you used. REFERENCE gives full details of that source so that you reader knows what type of source it is and where they can find it.