

One important characteristic of academic writing is that all the sources of information that the writer has used need to be indicated, not just as a bibliography or list of references, but also in or alongside the text. In some cases the source will be the main subject of the sentence, in others the sources may be mentioned parenthetically (in brackets) or via a notation system (e.g. footnotes). The more common verbs and verb phrases used in academic writing for referring to sources are given below. In these examples, the Harvard in-text referencing system has been used.

"Ideally, your review should be evaluative and critical of the studies which have a particular bearing on your own. For example, you may think a particular study did not investigate some necessary aspect of the area, or that the authors failed to notice some problem with their results."

Taken from the Manchester Good Practice Guide:
<http://www.manch.ac.uk/good-practice/>

General descriptions of the relevant literature:

- A considerable amount of literature has been published on X. These studies
- The first serious discussions and analyses of X emerged during the 1970s with
- The generalisability of much published research on this issue is problematic.
- What we know about X is largely based upon empirical studies that investigate how
- During the past 30 years much more information has become available on
- In recent years, there has been an increasing amount of literature on ...
- A large and growing body of literature has investigated

General reference to previous research/scholarly activity (usually more than one author)

Many historians *have argued that* (e.g. Jones, 1987; Johnson, 1990; Smith, 1994)

Numerous studies have attempted to explain (for example, Smith, 1996; Kelly, 1998; Johnson, 2002)

Recent evidence *suggests that* ... (Smith, 1996; Jones 1999; Johnson, 2001)

Recently, *in vitro* studies *have shown that* T. thermophilus EFTu can (Patel et al., 1997; Jones et al., 1998).

Surveys such as that conducted by Smith (1988) *have shown that*

Several attempts *have been made to* ... {Smith, 1996; Jones 1999; Johnson, 2001}

Several studies *have revealed that* it is not just X that acts on {Smith, 1996; Jones ...

Several biographies of Harris *have been published*.

Smith presents an ... account, whilst Jones

Several studies investigating X *have been carried out on*

Previous studies *have reported* (Smith, 1985; Jones, 1987; Johnson, 1992).

Previous research findings into X *have been* inconsistent and contradictory (Smith, 1996; Jones 1999), A number of studies *have found that* {Smith, 2003; Jones, 2004}.

The relationship between X and Y *has been widely investigated* {Smith, 1985; Jones, 1987, ...

The causes of X have been *widely investigated* (Jones, 1987; Johnson, 1990; Smith, 1994).

The geology of X *has been addressed* in several small scale investigations and ...

Xs *have been identified* as major contributing factors for the decline of many species (1).

X *has also been shown* to reverse the anti-inflammatory effects of glucocorticoids in murine-induced arthritis (11).

It *has been suggested* that levels of X are independent of the size of the Y (Smith et al.,1995)

It *has conclusively been shown that* X and Y increase Z {Smith et al., 1999; Jones, 2001.....

It *has been demonstrated* that a high intake of X results in damage to (Smith, 1998;.....

Reference to current state of knowledge

A relationship exists between an individual's working memory and their ability to (Jones et al.,1998).
 GM varieties of maize are able to cross-pollinate with non-GM varieties (Smith,1998; Jones,1999).
 There is an unambiguous relationship between spending on education and economic development (Rao,1998).
 X is one of the most intense reactions following CHD (Lane,2003).
 MIF has been found to oppose the anti-inflammatory actions of X on Y (Aiourfi,2004).

Reference to single investigations in the past: researcher(s) as sentence subject

Jones et al. (2001) *investigated* the differential impact of formal and non-formal education on
analysed the data from 72 countries and concluded that ...
reviewed the literature from the period and found little evidence for this claim.
interviewed 250 undergraduate students using semi-structured questionnaires.
studied the effects of Cytochrome P450 on unprotected nerve cells.
performed a similar series of experiments in the 1960s to show that
carried out a number of investigations into the
conducted a series of trials *in which* he mixed X with different quantities of
measured both components of the
labelled these subsets as ...
examined the flow of international students

Reference to single investigations or publications in the past: time frame prominent

In 1975, Smith et al. *published* a paper *in which* they described
 In 1990 Patel et al. *demonstrated* that replacement of H₂O with heavy water led to
 Thirty years later, Smith (1974) *reported* three cases of Candida Albicans which ...
 In the 1950s Gunnar Myrdal *pointed to* some of the ways in which (Myrdal,1957)
 In 1981, Smith and coworkers *demonstrated that* X induced in vitro resistance to ...
 In 1990, El-Guerrouj et al. *reported* a new and convenient synthetic procedure to obtain ...
 In 1984 Jones et al. *made* several amino acid esters of X and evaluated them as water-soluble pro-drugs.

Reference to single investigations in the past: investigation prominent

Preliminary work on X *was undertaken* by AbdulKarim (1992).
 The first systematic study of X *was reported* by Patel et al. in 1986.
 The study of the structural behavior of X *was first carried out* by Rao et al. (1986).....
 Analysis of the genes involved in X *was first carried out* by Smith et al (1983).

A recent study by Smith and Jones (2001) *involved*
 A longitudinal study of X by Smith (2002) *reports that*
 A small scale study by Smith (2002) *reaches* different conclusions, finding no increase in
 Smith's cross-country analysis (2002) *showed that*
 Smith's comparative study (2002) *found that*
 Detailed examination of X by Smith and Patel (1961) *showed that*

In another major study, Zhao (1974) *found that* just over half of the
 In a randomised controlled study of X, Smith (2004) *reported that*
 In a large longitudinal study, Boucahy et al. (2004) *investigated* the incidence of X in Y.

Reference to single investigations in the past: research topic as subject

- Classical conditioning *was first demonstrated* experimentally by Pavlov (Smith, 2002). In his seminal study
- The electronic spectroscopy of X *was first studied* by Smith and Douglas 1 in 1970
- The acid-catalyzed condensation reaction between X and Y *was first reported* by Baeyer in 1872
- X *formed* the central focus of a study by Smith (2002) in which the author found
- X *was originally isolated* from Y in a soil sample from (Wang et al., 1952).
- The way in which the X gene is regulated was studied extensively by Ho and colleagues (Ho et al. 1995 and 1998).
- To determine the effects of X, Zhao et al (2005) compared

Reference to what other writers do in their text (author as subject)

- Smith (2003) *identifies* poor food, bad housing, inadequate hygiene and large families as the major causes of
- Rao (2003) *lists* three reasons why the English language has become so dominant. These are:
- Smith (2003) *traces* the development of Japanese history and philosophy during the 19th century.
- Jones (2003) *provides* in-depth analysis of the work of Aristotle showing its relevance to contemporary times.
- Smith (2003) *draws our attention to* distinctive categories of motivational beliefs often observed in ...
- Smith (2003) *defines* evidence based medicine as the conscious, explicit and judicious use of
- Rao (2003) *highlights* the need to break the link between economic growth and transport growth
- Smith (2003) *discusses* the challenges and strategies for facilitating and promoting
- Toh (2003) *mentions* the special situation of Singapore as an example of
- Smith (2003) *questions* whether mainstream schools are the best environment for
- Smith (2003) *considers* whether countries work well on cross-border issues such as
- Smith (2003) *uses* examples of these various techniques as evidence that

In her major study,

In her seminal article,

In her classic critique of,

In her case study of, Smith (2004) identifies five characteristics of ...

In her review of,

In her analysis of,

in her introduction to,

Some analysts (eg Carnoy, 2002) have attempted to draw fine distinctions between ...

Other authors (see Harbison, 2003; Kaplan, 2004) question the usefulness of such an approach.

Reference to other writers' ideas (author as subject)

According to Smith (2003), preventative medicine is far more cost effective, and therefore better adapted to the developing world.

Smith (2003)	points out	
	argues	
	maintains	preventative medicine is far more cost effective, and
	claims	therefore better adapted to the developing world
	concludes	
	: suggests	

Smith (2003) argues for an explanatory theory for each type of irrational belief.
offers
proposes
suggests

This view is supported by Jones (2000) who writes
Smith argues that her data support O'Brien's (1988) view that
As Smith reminds us,
Elsewhere, Smith has argued that

Some ways of introducing quotations

- In the final part of the Theses, Marx writes "Philosophers have hitherto only interpreted the world in various ways; the point"
- Sachs concludes, "The idea of development stands today like a ruin in the intellectual landscape.." (Sachs, 1992a:156).
- As Smith argues, "In the past, the purpose of education was to" Smith, 2000:150).
- As Carnoy (2004: 215) states, "there are many good reasons to be sceptical

