Nature Style Guide for Biology Thesis Students


References (bibliography)

For Nature style, numbered endnotes take the place of a bibliography; they are placed after the Discussion, before Methods. Note: Do not use MicroSoft Word’s “Insert Endnote” feature because more than one endnote may need to have the same number if it refers to the same reference. You can use EndNote's Cite While You Write™ application, or you can manually put them at the end of your thesis text. If putting them in manually, the keyboard shortcut to change an endnote number to superscript is CTRL+SHIFT+= in Windows, or CMD+SHIFT+= on a Mac.

- More than 5 authors: Give only the first author followed by et al. in italics; put a space between first and middle initials.
- Only the first word of the article title and proper nouns in the article title are capitalized. Chapter titles are optional, but see number 10; the name of the author of the chapter is often sufficient.
- Volume numbers are bold.
- The year of publication is always listed last, inside parentheses, followed by a period. For a book, inside parentheses, the year is preceded by the publisher, which is followed by a comma.

Figures

- Adjacent to each figure put a legend: Using 12 pt. **bold** font, begin with the word Figure followed by a space, the number of the figure, a space, a pipe (a vertical line produced with Shift+Back-slash key), a space, and the title of the figure. *Only* the first word of the figure title and proper nouns are capitalized. Parts of the figure are labeled with bold, lower case letters.

- Refer to your figures in your text with parenthetical notes, abbreviate Figure as Fig. For example:

See this figure and the text referring to it on page 432 of this article:


Tables

- Tables should be created from data gathered by the thesis author rather than copied from published works.

- Above the table, in **bold**, put the word Table followed by a space, the number of the Table, a space, a pipe (a vertical line produced with Shift+back slash key), a space, and the title of the table.

- *Only* the first word of the table title and proper nouns are capitalized.

- Below the table define any abbreviations or symbols used in the table, one per line.

- Refer to the table in the text by the word Table followed by its number.

See this table and the text referring to it on page 56 of this article: