

Homework Assignment #4, Proper Referencing

The purpose of this assignment is to give you practice in recognizing what kinds of statements must be referenced in scholarly work. References serve a variety of purposes in scientific writing:

- To place your results within the context of prior work, thus making clear what work has been previously done and what is new that you are reporting.
- To make your premises and assumptions explicit; to identify the starting point for your logical exposition.
- To add authority to your arguments, by showing how others' observations and interpretations support your own.
- To establish your expertise; to show that you understand the problem and are familiar with the relevant literature.
- To allow readers to easily check sources for themselves, so they can make their own informed decisions.

For this assignment, download from the PHYS 496 “Homework” page the “Proximity Effect in Topological Superconductors” introduction section from a former student’s senior thesis [used with permission]. All references have been removed from this document. (The original thesis contained >30 references in this section.)

Next, do the following:

1. Using the “highlight” tool of your preferred word processor, mark every statement in the text that should be referenced. Pay attention to boundary conditions, i.e., where the material being referenced starts and ends in the text. Place a reference callout ([1] or²) after each highlighted statement. Note that references are always called out in consecutive order. For example, the statement “*A number of methods have been proposed for desalination of seawater, including thermal desalination, membrane desalination, freezing, solar dehumidification, and membrane distillation*” would probably require five separate references—one authoritative paper for each method. You would indicate the references thus: *A number of methods have been proposed for desalination of seawater, including thermal desalination,¹ membrane desalination,² freezing,³ solar dehumidification,⁴ and membrane distillation.⁵* [Note that superscript callout numbers go *outside* the punctuation.] Use the “comment” tool to ask questions if you’re not sure whether a statement should be referenced.
2. Find suitable references for **five** of the statements that you identify as requiring a reference. References must be to published, peer-reviewed papers—Wikipedia® articles do not count. You may choose any of the statements that you have highlighted, but be sure to provide the callout number and the **complete** bibliographic citations for your references at the end of the document.

Here’s an example of what you should do (example taken from another student’s thesis):

“Apart from the threat of depletion, **fossil fuels pose numerous health^{1,2} and environmental risks,³** which have been well documented in the literature. Considering the limitations and concerns fossil fuels present, clean and renewable energy sources must be implemented to a larger degree.”

¹ M. Kampa and E. Castanas, “Human health effects of air pollution,” *Environ. Pollution* **151**, 362–367 (2008).

² B. Ostro, *Outdoor air pollution: Assessing the environmental burden of disease at national and local levels* (Geneva, World Health Organization, 2004) (WHO Environmental Burden of Disease Series, No. 5).

³ J. Michel et al. *Spills of Emulsified Fuels* (Washington DC, National Academy Press, 2002), pp. 44–65.

Submit your marked-up text and the five new references in a single file.

Due: **Friday, Sept 23, 9:00 p.m.** Upload your completed assignment to my.physics. Late assignments may be uploaded until 8:59 p.m. on Sunday, Sept 25. Assignments submitted after the deadline will have points deducted and will be ineligible for rewrite points.

Total—50 points