Intro: This transcript was created to make the related video content more accessible

Total Time: 3:58

00:00:00 – 00:00:20

All research builds on the work other researchers have done in the past. Most scholarly books and articles contain long lists of citations to other researcher’s work.

00:00:21 – 00:01:11

Here’s why:

1. You must give credit to the original researcher. If you include someone else’s ideas, words, or other type of work in your paper, you need to give them credit.
2. Citations provide evidence for your arguments and add credibility to your work by showing that you considered a variety of ideas on your topic.
3. Citations allow scholars to participate in “academic conversations”. By citing another researcher’s work, you are “commenting” on the validity of their opinions, and adding to the collection of scholarly work completed on your topic.
4. Citations help your reader find what sources you used to draw your conclusions.

00:01:12 – 00:01:30

“Plagiarism” is the word we use here in the U.S. to describe when people use the ideas, words, or other work without citing the original source. You can get into trouble if you are caught plagiarizing in work you turn in here at the University.
When your instructors talk about citing “sources”, they mean the articles, books, or other published work that describes a research activity.

There are many different types of sources, and each one is cited in a different way. But all sources have the same basic parts:

Author: The author is the person or people who wrote the description of the research.
Title: The title is the name given to the description of the research.
Date: The date is the calendar year the description of the research was published.
Publisher: The publisher is the organization or company who published the description.

Some sources, like journal articles, contain a few more parts:

Volume and Issue: Volume and issue numbers show the exact issue the description appears in.
Page numbers: Page numbers are included in some citations to show exactly where in the source the description appears.
A journal article citation will look something like this. You can see the author, date, title, publisher, volume and issue number, and page numbers.


00:02:57 – 00:03:28

The order of each part will depend on the citation style you are using. The three styles you will probably see when writing papers in the U.S. are MLA, APA, and Chicago. The styles are chosen based on the individual field, or major. For example, English majors mostly use MLA. Your instructor will tell you which style to use.

CITATION STYLES:

MLA == ENGLISH MAJORS

APA == EDUCATION MAJORS

CHICAGO == HISTORY MAJORS

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You can check the style manual or go to the Online Writing Laboratory at Purdue University, which is a great citation information website for MLA and APA citation styles. If you are unsure of how to cite a source, ask a librarian or your instructor.

STILL UNSURE?

ASK A LIBRARIAN OR YOUR INSTRUCTOR