

Transcript: Mod 10 Citing Sources Tutorial

Citing sources may not be your favorite parts of the research process, but it is an important one. Not only does citing sources help you avoid plagiarism (which we know is a big deal), but it also builds your credibility and shows you're knowledgeable about the research that has already been done on your topic. So how do you actually give credit to the sources you used? The library has you covered.

There are thousands of citation styles out there, but only a handful are really common. Maybe you've heard of APA, MLA, Chicago, or Turabian or one of the other common citation styles. Each one is a little different, but it helps to remember that their purpose is the same: to give your reader a way to trace your research back to the original sources you've used. Your instructor will typically tell you which style they prefer, but let's take a quick look at the Library Guide.

If you start at the UNCG Library Homepage, you can click on *Citation Style Guides*, under the *Research* heading. Our citation style guide has tabs across the top with the styles that we see most often at UNCG. Let's start with APA.

You can see here that we have examples for in-text citations, as well as reference-less citations for journal articles. If you scroll down further, you'll find newspaper articles, books, and more. The very bottom of the page we have links out to other useful resources like the OWL at Purdue Page. APA was developed by the American Psychological Association and is used in psychology and other fields, including Education, Nursing, and Communication Studies. APA puts its emphasis on author and year of publication so those are the two elements you'll see and they're also the first two you'll see in a reference list entry. So if we take a look at this example, "Hall, D.T.", our author, and "1990", our date. In the social sciences, currency and research is critical, thus, the data is really important. It also helps your reader see how research on a topic has changed over time.

We scroll back up to the top. MLA is our next tab. MLA is most often used in the Humanities like English, and the focus here is on author and page number. So in the example that you can see on in-text citations, we've got our "authors" and "page twenty-two". This allows your readers to consult the original work and see exactly what you saw when you were writing. Because research in the Humanities can deal with subjects that are hundreds or thousands of years old, the data is typically considered a little less important.

Chicago style is used heavily by history, but really is meant to work for any field or discipline. There are two main variations of Chicago Style, so take a look at this guide and the resources linked to make sure you're consistent with the variation you're using. The two main ones are *Notes and Bibliography* or *Author and Date*. Under *More Information*, we have links out to additional information about using Chicago Style. All of our guides follow the same general format here. Up next is Turabian.

Turabian is really similar to Chicago. Again, you'll want to take a look at our examples as well as the links we've included. We also have guides for a few other styles: ASA for the American Sociological Association, APSR which is used in Political Science, and AMA which is the American Medical Association style. You want to remember that the goal of your citations is to

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help a reader who wants to consult *your* sources directly. Give enough information to make retrieval quick and easy for them. If you still have questions, you can always click Ask Us from the library's homepage or chat with iMinerva directly from the citation's style guides. Happy citing!