Glendale College Library Information Competency Workshops
Citing Sources

Why cite sources?
- It gives you, the writer, authority over your subject matter.
- It allows the reader the opportunity to see related sources of information.
- It provides a standard format that everyone can read and understand.
- It gives credit to the authors of the sources you have used.
- It is the ethical and legal way to use information and avoids plagiarism.

To cite or not to cite?
- If it isn’t your original idea, it needs to be cited: if it came from a book, periodical article, textbook, class lecture, TV show, interview, Web site, etc., it needs to be cited.
- If it is the result of your own original research, it does not need to be cited.
- If it is your own opinion, it does not need to be cited.
- If it is common knowledge (i.e. factual information that is so well-known that it can be found in numerous sources), it does not need to be cited.

Paraphrase or quote?
- Paraphrases and quotations both require citation.
- Quotations require quotation marks; paraphrases do not.
- Quotations must be written exactly as in the original source.
- Paraphrases must be expressed in your own words, not just changing a few words from the original.
- Quotations should be used when the exact words of the original source are essential to its meaning and important to your essay.

Formatting your paper in different styles

Here are a few of the many good Web sites that provide good guides to various style formats:
http://www.glendale.edu/library/research/citing.html -- GCC Library’s list of guides
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/ -- from the Online Writing Lab at Purdue University
http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/ -- from Diana Hacker’s Bedford St. Martin Guide
The following original text is an excerpt from Zbigniew Brzezinski’s commentary in the Los Angeles Times of February 11, 2007 entitled: “A Road Map out of Iraq”:

Our international interest calls for a significant change in direction. We need a strategy to end the occupation of Iraq and to shape a regional security dialogue. Both goals will take time and require genuinely serious U.S. commitment. The quest to achieve these goals should involve four steps.

Below are some possible uses of this text. As you read through each version, try to decide if it is an acceptable use of Brzezinski’s text or an example of plagiarism.

**Version A:**
In the international interest of the United States our foreign policy requires a major change of direction in Iraq. We need a strategy to end the occupation of Iraq and to shape a regional security dialogue. Both of these goals will take time and a genuinely serious U.S. commitment. Achieving these goals should involve the following four steps.

**Version B:**
According to Brzezinski, the international interest of the United States requires a new strategy with two primary goals: the end of U.S. occupation in Iraq, and the creation of a regional security dialogue in the Middle East. He proposes four steps to the U.S. out of Iraq (Brzezinski M1).

**Version C:**
“Our international interest calls for a change in direction. We need a strategy to end the Iraqi occupation and shape a regional security dialogue. Both of these goals will take time and require serious U.S. commitment. The quest to achieve these goals involves four steps” (Brzezinski M1).

**Version D:**
I agree with Zbigniew Brzezinski that the U.S. needs to get out of Iraq. He maintains that “We need a strategy to end the occupation of Iraq and to shape a regional security dialogue” (Brzezinski M1). I disagree with the four steps he proposes to achieve these goals.
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Decoding Citations (MLA Style)


Title of periodical = _____

4. Name of database = _____

Date of original publication = _____

5. Name of database provider (vendor) = _____

Volume number = _____

6. URL (Web address) of database provider = _____

Issue number = _____

7. Name of library providing access = _____

Author of the article = _____

8. Date of electronic access = _____

Title of the article = _____
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Creating Citations

Use one of the style guides you have seen today to write correct citations for the following sources. You may use the MLA or APA format, whichever you prefer.

Main Author: Pinsky, Mark J. 1947.
Title: The Gospel according to the Simpsons: the spiritual life of the world’s most animated family
Subject(s): Simpsons (Television program)
Television broadcasting Religious aspects
Description: 1st ed.
div. 193 p.; ill.; 23 cm.
Notes: Bibliography: p. 187-188.

Location: Books - Upper Level
Call Number: 791.4572 P658g
Number of Items: 1
Status: Available

Write your citation below:

Television Teaching: Parody, The Simpsons, and Media Literacy Education

Subjects: Television programs, Cartoons, Media, Rhetoric
Author(s): Jonathan Gray
Document types: Feature
Document features: references
Publication title: Critical Studies in Media Communication
Source type: Periodical
ISSN: 15296036
ProQuest document ID: 933171051
did=933171051&sid=1&Fmt=2&clientId=1947&RQT=309&VName=PCD

Abstract (Document Summary)
This paper examines the use of television parody as a media literacy educator, and the potential of parody to channel the powers of comedy and entertainment in order to “teach” the techniques and rhetoric of televised texts and genres. It focuses on the case of the hugely successful and popular animated parody sitcom, The Simpsons, and its playful attack on advertising and promotional culture. Currently in its 16th season, The Simpsons broadcasts to approximately 80 million viewers in 70 countries weekly, offering a playful critique of television from within the television frame. [PUBLICATION ABSTRACT]

Write your citation below: