Citing Sources

When researching a topic, you will be looking for various sources (such as books, articles, and websites) that support your argument. You will need to find reliable sources that you can incorporate into your paper. Information about these sources (such as title, author, and publication date) is what you will use to create your citations.

Why cite sources?
You want to make sure your readers can trace your research. If, for example, you found an article in the New York Times, you want to tell your readers how to find this article. You need to provide them with the title of the newspaper, when it was published, who wrote it, etc.

You also want to make sure you acknowledge the efforts of other writers and researchers. By citing your sources, you make certain that the writers of the sources you found are credited. Without citations, it might look like you have plagiarized someone else’s work or ideas.

Where do citations go in a paper?
You will place the full citation of each source in your Works Cited section (also called a Bibliography or References), which will go at the end of your paper.

When you quote or refer to one of your sources in your paper, you will use in-text citations (information in parentheses near the reference or footnotes at the bottom of a page).

Need Help?

The Writing Center in Bryan and the Writing Room in Brenham are designed to help you improve your written communication skills. For hours, handouts, useful links, and more, visit the websites below.

The Writing Center – Bryan
http://www.blinn.edu/brazos/humanities/writingcenter/
Bryan Campus: Room A119

The Writing Center – Brenham
http://www.blinn.edu/humanities/writingroom/index.htm
Brenham Campus: Academic Building, Room 14

Please also see the library’s LibGuide on Citations
http://libguides.blinn.edu/citationsources

You can also come in to one of our locations, call, e-mail, chat, or text us. Go to www.blinn.edu/library for information on hours and locations.
**Book**

Author's Name. *Title of Book*. Place of Publication: Publisher, Date of Publication. Print.


**Book by Two or Three Authors**

When there are more than three authors you may give just the first author's name only followed by "et al."

Lastname, Firstname, Firstname Lastname, and Firstname Lastname. *Title of Book*. Place of Publication: Publisher, Date of Publication. Print.


**Book with Editor instead of Author**

Editor's Name, ed. *Title of Anthology/Book*. Place of Publication: Publisher, Date of Publication. Print.


**Short Story/Poem/Essay/Article in a Print Anthology**


**Book Accessed Online/ E-book**

Author's name. *Title of Book*. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication. Title of Database/Web Site. Web. Date of Access.


**Journal or Magazine Article Accessed Online/ In database**


**Journal Article reprinted in a book:**


Cite documents by putting the author's last name and page number with a comma.

**Video from Library Database**

*Title of Video*. Dir. Director's Name. Production Company/Distributor, Date of Publication. *Database Name*. Web. Date of Access. URL (if necessary)

**Online Video Clip**


**Web Page**

If there is no author, begin the reference with the document title. If there is no date, put n.d. If there is no sponsoring organization, copyright holder, or publisher, put n.p.

Author's Name. "Title of Page". *Title of Overall Web Site*. Sponsoring Organization or Publisher, Date of Publication. Web. Date of Access.

Cite documents by putting the author's last name and page number in parentheses. Do NOT separate the last name and page with a comma.

**Single Author**

(Smith 36)

**Two or Three Authors**

(Smith and Jones 7) or (Smith, Jones, and Brown 195)

**Four or More Authors**

(Smith et al. 57-59)

**Author's Name in Sentence**

Jones found that... (89)

**Classic Literary Works**

When citing a classic work you may want to include further identifying information

*Hamlet* struggles with his feelings (*Shakespeare Act I, Scene 5*)

*In Sonnet 18* Shakespeare compliments his love (*Lines 1&2*)