

**Project Title:**

Cite Before You Write: A Java Citation Generator

**Our App Definition:**

Our program is a source citation generator. A user will first choose the citation style they wish for their citations to be in from a list of options. Then for each source the user will choose the source's medium from a list of options. Then the user will be prompted for specific publication information required depending on their citation style and source medium selections. The program will generate the citation in the correct format for their chosen style and output to the user a citation that they can then copy into their works cited page. At the conclusion of using the generator a user will see their citation statistics including the total number of citations completed, the citation style chosen, and the number of citations per source medium. The user will also have the option to output their citations in alphabetical order as a file so they can add annotations or edit the list.

**Team:**

Design, programming of portions that bring together the different components, documentation, and the final report creation will be collaborative efforts created using shared Google files and [GitHub](#).

Abdur Khan - testing and programming of APA style

Rebecca Parker - testing and programming of Chicago style

Sam Schultz - testing and programming of MLA style

**Design:***Input/Output*

The user will first select the citation style they wish to use from the following options: MLA, APA, or Chicago. Then the user will select their first source's medium from the following options and sub options: book > whole or section > physical or online, journal > whole or single article > physical or online, website. The user will then be prompted to enter the specific information needed to complete the citation. We will need to have constraints that check the user capitalizes the first letter of some inputs like the Author's first and last names and Publisher OR be sure to do some string manipulations to capitalize these things. There will also be constraints to verify date info such as if the month input is correct.

Depending on what the user selected from both the style and source medium choices, the program will output the source citation based off of the publication information provided by the user. The user will then be asked if they wish to continue creating citations in the same style. If yes, the program will loop back through starting

with source medium selection. If no, the user will then be asked if they still wish to still use the generator but using a different style. If yes, the program will first output their citation statistics including the total number of citations completed, the citation style chosen, and the number of citations per source medium, and then it will loop back through starting with the citation style selection. If no, the program will output their citation statistics including the total number of citations completed, the citation style chosen, and the number of citations per source medium. The program will then ask the user if they would like their citations organized in alphabetical order in a plain text file. If yes, it will ask the user for a title for the file and write to it. If no, the program will exit.

#### *Citation Generator Details*

The information the user is prompted for will be stored in variables that will be accessed using various defined methods. The methods that are called will depend on style and medium selection.

#### **Initial ideas for classes:**

There will be a class each for MLA, APA, and Chicago styles of citation. The classes will have some similar objects and methods but will differ in how the various parts of each citation style or class are constructed. We will also have a class that holds all the objects that the user inputs as required parts for the different citation style classes to use, such as author, title, and date objects. We will need to consider if it is necessary or useful to have classes for each of the source mediums.

#### **Code uncertain of how to complete:**

1. How to create list of options for user to select from instead of text input for the citation style and source medium input.
2. How to export to a text file.

#### **Schedule:**

Key things to do Week 1 (Monday start date) - Brainstorm/model program flow

Key things to do Week 2 (Monday start date) - Create compilable shell of full citation logic for each style - essentially create the first rough draft

Key things to do Week 3 (Monday start date) - Revise program drafts, add in error checks, begin program testing

Key things to do Week 4 (Monday start date) - Continue program testing, fix bugs, app launch/presentation

#### **Testing:**

The nature of this project lends itself to being very relevant to the lives of college students. We will be able to test this program with any citations needed for any of our papers, as well as the papers of our peers. We fully plan on having our peers test out

the generator and give us constructive feedback. We'll be able to check the validity of the generated citations either by comparing to correct hand-made citations ourselves or other generated citations from online generators.