

Information Landscape Workshop | Citing your sources: Why it matters and resources to save you time

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Prompt: Imagine you are an academic librarian. Please design a 50-minute workshop for freshmen about citing sources that meets the following learning objectives.

1. Students will be introduced to the history of citation styles
2. Students will become aware of why citing sources is necessary
3. Students will become aware of AI and non-AI tools that can help them cite their sources accurately

I also want to include a think-pair-share activity on this topic, which is defined as "a collaborative learning strategy where students first individually "think" about a question or topic, then "pair" up with a partner to discuss their ideas, and finally "share" their thoughts with the larger group, allowing for active participation and deeper understanding of the subject matter".

Response: Workshop Title: *Citing Your Sources: Why It Matters and Tools to Help You Do It Right*

Workshop Overview:

This 50-minute workshop will introduce freshman students to the history and purpose of citation styles, explain the importance of citing sources, and familiarize them with various citation tools—both AI and non-AI. The session will include a Think-Pair-Share activity to help students reflect on why citation is crucial, discuss it with peers, and synthesize ideas as a group.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of the workshop, students will:

1. Be introduced to the history of citation styles.
2. Understand the necessity of citing sources in academic work.
3. Learn about AI and non-AI tools available to help cite sources accurately.

Workshop Outline:

1. Introduction (5 minutes)

- **Welcome and Overview:** Briefly introduce the session objectives.
- **Icebreaker:** Quick poll or show of hands: "Who has ever had trouble citing sources before?" This can help gauge student familiarity with the topic and set the tone.

2. The History of Citation Styles (10 minutes)

- **Lecture with Visuals:** Present a short lecture (using slides) on the **history of citation styles**. Key points include:
 - **Why citation systems were created:** To establish academic rigor, give credit, and avoid plagiarism.
 - **Evolution of citation styles:** Discuss how different academic disciplines developed their own citation conventions based on needs (e.g., APA for sciences, MLA for humanities).
 - **Show a timeline of citation style development:** Highlight key milestones, such as the creation of the MLA Handbook (1951) and the APA style (1929).
- **Interactive Q&A:** After the brief history, ask students if they've encountered multiple citation styles in their classes or noticed differences between them.

3. Why Citing Sources is Necessary (10 minutes)

- **Presentation:** Discuss the **importance of citing sources**. Cover key points:
 - **Academic Integrity:** Avoiding plagiarism and giving credit where it's due.
 - **Supporting Arguments:** Demonstrating the credibility of your claims by referencing authoritative sources.

- **Intellectual Property:** Respecting the original authors' work and ensuring they are properly credited.
- **Building on Existing Knowledge:** Showing how your work fits into the broader academic conversation.
- **Activity Prompt for Think-Pair-Share:** Ask students to individually think about why citation might matter in their studies or personal experiences. This can include a quick personal reflection (e.g., a time when they might have questioned the credibility of a source without citation).

4. Think-Pair-Share Activity (10 minutes)

- **Instructions:**
 - **Think:** Spend 2 minutes individually reflecting on the question, "Why do you think citing sources is important in academic work?" Students can jot down notes or thoughts on paper or their devices.
 - **Pair:** Students pair up with a neighbor to share their reflections for 3 minutes.
 - **Share:** After pairs discuss, ask several students to share their key thoughts with the whole class. Use this as an opportunity to reinforce the importance of citation and address any misunderstandings.

5. Citation Tools: AI vs Non-AI (10 minutes)

- **Introduction to Citation Tools:** Discuss the different types of tools that students can use to help them cite sources accurately. Present both **AI-powered and non-AI tools**:
 - **Non-AI Tools:** Citation management software like Zotero, EndNote, or Mendeley. Highlight their features like organizing citations, generating bibliographies, and maintaining research libraries.
 - **AI Tools:** Mention tools like **ChatGPT, Cite This For Me, or Zotero's automatic citation generation**. Discuss how these can assist in creating citations but emphasize the importance of **verifying accuracy**.
 - **Pros and Cons:**
 - **Non-AI tools** require manual input but provide long-term organization.
 - **AI tools** save time but might introduce errors if not double-checked.
 - **Importance of Accuracy:** Stress that even the best tools can make mistakes, and students must verify their citations before submission.
- **Demo (optional):** If possible, give a brief demo of how to use one of the citation tools (like Zotero or Cite This For Me).

6. Application: Practice Citing (5 minutes)

- **Activity:** Give students a simple, academic source (e.g., a journal article or book excerpt) and ask them to practice creating a citation using either a tool or manually. Students can use an online tool or citation style guide for the citation style you're focusing on (e.g., MLA or APA).
- **Assist Students:** Walk around to help those who need assistance with their citations.

7. Closing & Reflection (5 minutes)

- **Wrap-up Discussion:** Summarize the key points covered in the workshop:
 - The importance of citation and the history behind different citation styles.
 - The tools available to help with citation, and the importance of double-checking them.
- **Quick Reflection Poll:** Ask students one last time to reflect on their learning. You could use a tool like **Mentimeter** or a show of hands: "What will you do differently the next time you cite a source?"

Materials & Resources:

- **Handout:** A one-page guide on citation styles (MLA, APA, Chicago) and tools (Zotero, EndNote, AI tools).
 - **Access to Citation Tools:** Ensure students have access to a few citation tools (links to online citation generators, Zotero, etc.).
 - **Slide Deck:** Visual aids summarizing the history, importance, and tools for citation.
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Assessment/Follow-Up:

- Encourage students to attend office hours or use library resources for any citation questions.
- Provide a follow-up quiz or short assignment where students must cite multiple sources in the style they've learned.

This workshop ensures that students not only understand the history and purpose of citation but also feel confident using tools that will assist them in this vital academic task. The Think-Pair-Share activity allows for reflection, peer learning, and deeper understanding, making citation a more approachable topic.

Prompt: Can you please add a section about why links alone are not sufficient when citing sources, even born-digital sources?

Response: Certainly! Below is an updated version of the workshop outline with an added section addressing **why links alone are not sufficient when citing sources**, even for **born-digital sources**.

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3. Why Citing Sources is Necessary (10 minutes)

- **Presentation:** Discuss the **importance of citing sources**. Cover key points:
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 - **Intellectual Property:** Respecting the original authors' work and ensuring they are properly credited.
 - **Building on Existing Knowledge:** Showing how your work fits into the broader academic conversation.
- **Activity Prompt for Think-Pair-Share:** Ask students to individually think about why citation might matter in their studies or personal experiences. This can include a quick personal reflection (e.g., a time when they might have questioned the credibility of a source without citation).

4. Think-Pair-Share Activity (10 minutes)

- **Instructions:**
 - **Think:** Spend 2 minutes individually reflecting on the question, "Why do you think citing sources is important in academic work?" Students can jot down notes or thoughts on paper or their devices.
 - **Pair:** Students pair up with a neighbor to share their reflections for 3 minutes.
 - **Share:** After pairs discuss, ask several students to share their key thoughts with the whole class. Use this as an opportunity to reinforce the importance of citation and address any misunderstandings.

5. Why Links Alone Are Not Sufficient (5 minutes)

- **Explanation:** Explain why simply including a **link** to an online source is **not sufficient** when citing sources, even for **born-digital** sources like websites, articles, or social media posts.
 - **Lack of Permanence:** Websites can be updated, deleted, or moved, making links unreliable over time. If you only cite a URL, a reader might not be able to access the source in the future.
 - **Missing Essential Information:** A link doesn't provide all the citation details that are needed for others to locate and verify the source. Citing properly includes key information such as the **author**, **title of the page or article**, **date of publication**, and the **access date** (if needed).
 - **Copyright and Authorship Issues:** Online content may not always provide adequate authorial credit or publication details on the page itself, which is why the citation should ensure all relevant information is present.
 - **Example:** Show an example of a poorly cited source (just a link) and compare it with a fully formatted citation (e.g., MLA, APA, Chicago). For example, instead of just a link like "www.example.com", the citation should include the author, title, date, and other information that properly credits the source.
- **Clarify:** Reinforce that even though digital sources are often easy to link to, a formal citation provides the full context necessary to find and evaluate the source in the future.

6. Citation Tools: AI vs Non-AI (10 minutes)

- **Introduction to Citation Tools:** Discuss the different types of tools that students can use to help them cite sources accurately. Present both **AI-powered and non-AI tools**:
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- **Activity:** Give students a simple, academic source (e.g., a journal article or book excerpt) and ask them to practice creating a citation using either a tool or manually. Students can use an online tool or citation style guide for the citation style you're focusing on (e.g., MLA or APA).
- **Assist Students:** Walk around to help those who need assistance with their citations.

8. Closing & Reflection (5 minutes)

- **Wrap-up Discussion:** Summarize the key points covered in the workshop:
 - The importance of citation and the history behind different citation styles.
 - The tools available to help with citation, and the importance of double-checking them.
 - Why links alone are not sufficient and how complete citations give context and longevity to sources.
- **Quick Reflection Poll:** Ask students one last time to reflect on their learning. You could use a tool like **Mentimeter** or a show of hands: "What will you do differently the next time you cite a source?"

Materials & Resources:

- **Handout:** A one-page guide on citation styles (MLA, APA, Chicago) and tools (Zotero, EndNote, AI tools).
- **Access to Citation Tools:** Ensure students have access to a few citation tools (links to online citation generators, Zotero, etc.).
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Assessment/Follow-Up:

- Encourage students to attend office hours or use library resources for any citation questions.

- Provide a follow-up quiz or short assignment where students must cite multiple sources in the style they've learned.

This additional section will help students understand why complete citations are critical for academic rigor and why relying on links alone can lead to incomplete or unreliable citations, especially in an ever-changing digital landscape.

Prompt: Thank you! Can you please generate a three-sentence description of this workshop, written in a tone that will make it appealing to undergraduate students?

Response: Struggling with citations? Join us for a fun and interactive workshop that will demystify the history of citation styles, show you why citing sources is essential, and introduce you to the best tools—AI and non-AI alike—to help you do it right. Whether you're using Zotero or navigating AI-driven tools, we'll give you the tips and tricks you need to cite sources confidently and accurately. Plus, we'll explain why links alone won't cut it and how to ensure your citations stand the test of time.