

### Motivation:

The aim of this document is to help you complete the research question on your assignment, by:

- finding credible sources
- documenting how, when and where you found your sources
- presenting what you've learned

It is an important skill to be able to expand upon the information provided to you in lecture and in your textbooks. There are a variety of sources of information that can help you do this. One great place to find references is in the:

- **back of your textbooks**
- **at the end of chapters in textbook**
- **the library**

- You have access to vetted information through the Library Gateway
- Much of it is available as digitally

### Plagiarism:

It is easy present someone else's words as your own, but doing so doesn't teach you much (unless you have a photographic memory), so when working on assignments, you should be aiming to **demonstrate your understanding**. This is done by **clearly presenting your own work**. In a research-type question this is done by **digesting** the information you locate, and then presenting it in **your own words**.

It is also easy for your instructor to discover that you've prevented someone else's words as your own! From the UVic Library website (UVic Library, 2012, September 15):

#### Plagiarism at UVic

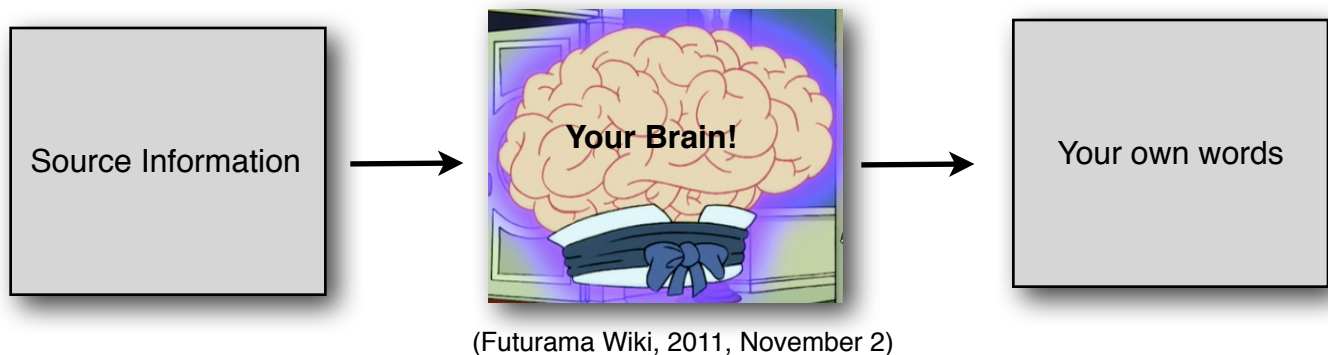
To help prevent and detect plagiarism, UVic subscribes to Turnitin, a plagiarism-detection software that instructors may use to help determine the originality of student work and ensure proper citations. Your work may be analyzed and compared against text on the web, articles in online databases, papers from "buy a term paper" web sites, and other student papers. Learn more about [Turnitin at UVic](#). The consequences of plagiarism range from a failing grade for an assignment or course to disciplinary probation or even expulsion from the university. See [UVic's Policy on Academic Integrity](#) for more about the consequences of plagiarism and other forms of cheating.

Sometimes you will be asked about a subject you are already familiar with, and you might feel it is not necessary to use other sources. In this situation, it never hurts to **support your answer with a short sentence** explaining how you became familiar with the subject (i.e. while working on a project, in another class).

## Overview

Summary of Steps

1. Find relevant information
2. Digest/understand it
3. Present it
4. Use quotes to support your answers
5. Reference your sources



## Find and identify your sources

- a) Find sources:
- a) webpage or website
  - b) book
  - c) journal

## Keep track of your research

- a) Keep a log of your research efforts

Each time you do research for your essay or work, write down the time and date, and what documents (books, articles, websites) you located. Why? Two good reasons:

1. To cover yourself, in case someone suspects you of plagiarism
2. To help you down the road, if you forget where you found a piece of information

## Present your answer

The purpose a research question is often for you to demonstrate your understanding of the material. For this reason, it is vital that you be able to present the information you've gathered *in your own words*. Finding the information is only the first step.

Digesting it and understanding it is the next step, and finally presenting your understanding is how you show us that you've done the work!

### Use quotes

Use short, clear quotes to support your work.

### Including media (images, music, etc.)

You may wish to add media to a research document. Images, especially, can be extremely powerful means of getting an idea across.

If you use media that you don't own, or that you didn't create, **always**:

- acknowledge the source
- reference the item

But better yet, use only media that you are legally allowed to. There is a wealth of media available that is free to use under many circumstance. Creative Commons Licensing allows use of media (under some conditions).

#### Example:

The information on Community Central sites is available under Creative Commons (CC) license.

see [http://community.wikia.com/wiki/Community\\_Central:Licensing](http://community.wikia.com/wiki/Community_Central:Licensing) for more information

### Reference your sources

There are a number of different valid referencing/citation styles. The UVic library is a great resource to find out more about properly referencing and citing works. Go to: <http://library.uvic.ca/instruction/cite/index.html> for more information.

*This article uses material from the “Big Brain” article on the Futurama Wiki at [Wikia](#) and is licensed under the [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike License](#).*

### References

1. Community Central site. (2012, September 14). Retrieved September 15, 2012, from [http://community.wikia.com/wiki/Community\\_Central](http://community.wikia.com/wiki/Community_Central)
2. Creative Commons site. (2012, September 15). Retrieved September 15, 2012, from <http://creativecommons.org/>
3. Futurama Wiki site. (2011, November 2). Retrieved September 15, 2012, from <http://futurama.wikia.com>
4. UVic Library site. (2012, September 15). Retrieved September 15, 2012, from <http://library.uvic.ca/>