

Do I need to cite it?

Simply put, we have to give credit where credit is due. **If the information is not your own idea, or is not common knowledge, we need to know where it's from.**

What if I paraphrase?

- Even if you rephrase the idea, you still need to cite it. It isn't about the words, it's about the idea.

Example (MLA format):

Original:

"Much research has been published on sacred space in the medieval world, the majority of this scholarship focuses on historical spatial practices, or on ways in which medieval concepts of space were actualized in social reality" (Bailey 495).

Your Paraphrase:

Most research on medieval sacred spaces have concentrated on the historical role holy sites played in the day to day social lives of women and men (Bailey 495).

Citation:

Bailey, Anne E. "Modern and Medieval Approaches to Pilgrimage, Gender and Sacred Space." *History & Anthropology*, vol. 24, no. 4, Dec. 2013, pp. 493-512. EBSCOhost, doi:10.1080/02757206.2013.813850.

What if I summarize a whole article or book?

- Yep, this requires a citation. Although you only summing up a whole book in a sentence or two, ultimately you're using someone else's knowledge and ideas. Put your citation at the end of the summary, whether it's a sentence or a paragraph.

Example (MLA format):

Your Summary:

In an article by Dr. Edward Group, he explains that on average Americans aren't getting as much fiber as they should. This is why it's important to take time to consider what you're going to eat ahead of time. And, if that still isn't enough, there are fiber supplements. However, Dr. Group maintains that the best way to get your fiber is through food (Group).

Citation:

Group, Edward. "The Top Nutritious Foods High in Fiber." *Global Healing Center: Live Healthy*, Global Healing Center, 30 Oct. 2017, <https://www.globalhealingcenter.com/natural-health/foods-high-in-fiber/>. Accessed 6 Dec. 2017.

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Do I need to cite it?

What if I use a direct quote?

- Definitely. Put quotation marks around the borrowed text AND put a citation at the end of the quote.

Example (MLA format):

Original: **The poet William Wordsworth was born in Cockermouth, Cumberland on 7 April 1770. Much of his poetry was inspired by the dramatic landscapes of the Lake District, and his work did much to alter public perceptions of that part of England.**

Your Quote:

William Wordsworth was born Cumberland in 1770, and “much of his poetry was inspired by the dramatic landscapes of the Lake District, and his work did much to alter public perceptions of that part of England” (British Library).

Citation:

British Library. *William Wordsworth*, British Library, <https://www.bl.uk/people/william-wordsworth>. Accessed 6 Dec. 2017.

What if I use an image or video?

- Yes. Both MLA and APA have ways to cite an image or video, whether you are talking about them in your paper or embedding them as a visual addition.

Example Citations (MLA):

Image:

Von Ditzfurth, Philipp. “Young female polar bear Milana inspects a snowman decorated with food at the zoo in Hannover, northern Germany, Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2017.” *Animals enjoy Christmas presents at a zoo in Germany*, AP News, [apnews.com/card/afs:Card:1654710034](https://www.apnews.com/card/afs:Card:1654710034).

Video:

“Markiplier's September Charity Livestream for Direct Relief.” *YouTube*, uploaded by Markiplier, 30 September 2017, www.youtube.com/watch?v=c1WbzqJIAqY.

What if it's common knowledge?

- Common knowledge is one of the few exceptions where you don't have to worry about a citation. There is some information you can assume your readers know without citing it (for example, the location of the White House). It's important to think about the audience your paper is aimed at. For example, a scientific journal uses terms that are not perhaps not common knowledge to those in the creative writing field. **Think about who you're writing for and whether an idea will be common knowledge to them.**

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