Module Two: Citations

Congratulations! You’ve mastered the basics. Now, let’s learn about an important tool you can use to avoid some academic integrity violation pitfalls.

You aren’t an expert in every field, and your professors don’t expect you to be -- you came to college to learn. Citation, in addition to helping you complete your work ethically, can be a learning tool.

In a jam? Don’t know the political implications of the United States during the French Revolution? You can cite what you learned from other sources.

In addition to saving you from plagiarism, it’s going to help you learn. Instead of copying and pasting from a wiki, you can find a good source from the library that explains the connections between the US and France during the 1700’s, and you want to use it in your paper.

Now, is it plagiarism to use that work? Not if you cite the source correctly.

You might wonder, what if I just summarize or paraphrase what the author says? Do I still need to cite it then? Yes, in these cases, you’re definitely still required to cite. It doesn’t only apply to direct quotations.

Citation isn’t limited only to text sources either. Any websites, pictures, songs, theories or ideas you use that you personally did not write or invent must be cited in academic projects. It’s the only way to use the work of another person with plagiarizing.

There are a few exceptions to the rule, which we will cover now. But before we do, it is important that you remember this: when in doubt, cite it. You won’t get in trouble for citing that might not need to be cited. You will get in trouble for not citing something that should be cited.

When you think a piece of information might be exempt from citing, here are the questions you should ask yourself:

1. Is this information common knowledge - a widely known, undisputed fact?
2. Is it a historical date?

If you can answer yes to either of these questions in the context of your information, you probably don’t need to cite it.

But significant details beyond a basic fact would require a citation.

And what do we mean by citation? Well, you might have noticed the parenthetical citation in the examples on the previous screen. In academic work, the parenthetical citation must be paired with full works cited page at the end of your work. The format will vary based on the
citation requirements of your professors, so be sure to check with them when you start a project.

Now that you’ve gotten an overview of cheating, plagiarism, and citation, let’s see what you know about academic integrity violations.

Read each situation carefully, and then choose the appropriate response. You can review your answers after the quiz is over.