Citing Sources in Academic Papers

Whenever you use information or ideas which are not your own, whether you are quoting, summarizing, or paraphrasing, you must properly cite that information. Different disciplines use different styles or formats for citing references. **APA citation style** (produced by the American Psychological Association) is widely used in the behavioural and social sciences; if you are uncertain which style to use, always check with your instructor.

To cite sources is to document them, to supply references (documents) that legitimate your use of borrowed material and support your claims about its origins. Here is an example of a citation.


You will need to adopt a consistent style for citing sources or references in academic papers.

APA is the most commonly used style for pre-professional and professional programs. However, you should consult your instructor to determine whether APA is the preferred style for your course. For guidelines on using the APA citation style consult:


These links will help you use the APA style:


This site summarizes formatting from MLA, APA, Chicago Style, CBE Style, and others:


**Citation managers:**

A citation manager is a piece of software that allows you to store and organize your collection of resources in an electronic format so that you can instantly generate bibliographies in any style.

**Citation manager options:**

There are several citation manager products on the market. For a more detailed comparison of citation managers, their features, and their costs, view the Library's [citation manager guide](http://www.uvic.ca/library/research/citation/guides/index.php).