

# STRENGTH MATTERS

Why strength of a source matters and a friendly tip on why we cite and give full references

Joseph Szewczyk  
for University of the  
People

# WHY STRENGTH MATTERS

Why should I care about strength of a source?

- Not all information is equal.
- Has anyone ever told you a lie?
- Has anyone ever misunderstood something you've said?
- Have you ever read something a child wrote full of imagination?
- Have you ever seen a Facebook post that you knew wasn't true?



The same reasons go for research too!

# WHY STRENGTH MATTERS

## Why can't I just use Google?

- If you just use Google then you won't be sure if what pops is **actually valid**.
- Believe it or not—**not everything on the internet is true**.
- The UoPeople Library has a search engine that searches only for **'Peer Reviewed' articles**.

# WHY STRENGTH MATTERS

## Why not Wikipedia?

- Wikipedia is an open-edit website.
- People who write articles on Wikipedia may or **may not know what they are talking about**.
- Some people like to put **false information** on Wikipedia.
- By the time an editor for Wikipedia catches false information, it is usually **far too late** for the student.

# WHY CITE?

## Why use citations?

- You give credit to the person who created the thought or words.
- The person you cite might be a genius...or completely wrong about everything.
- If you don't cite, you are stealing.

# WHAT IS AN IN-TEXT CITATION? WHAT IS A REFERENCE?

## In-Text Citation:

- Is giving credit in the text itself.
- Gives credit in the same sentence saying you are taking this from someone.
- Is given by making sure you include the person's Last Name, the Year it was printed and the page it appears.

## Reference:

- A Reference is a full bibliographical material reference that appears at the end of your paper.
- Allows people who want to know more about your sources an area to see where to look the sources up.
- Basically it will look like:

Last name, First initial. (Year). Title.  
Location: Publisher.

# IS IT PLAGIARISM?

## Examples:

- Not using quotes and citations when you change 50% of the text.
- Not using citations when you take another person's idea and reword it.
- Only putting References and not using In-Text Citations.

## Answers:

- **Yes**—you need to use quote marks unless you change almost ALL of the words. Then you need to still cite for paraphrase.
- **Yes**, you need to give credit with a citation for the idea.
- **Yes**, only putting references instead of References and In-Text Citations means you took something, but you aren't telling where.