The HCTC Quick Guide to Citations

Professional writing is a strong skill that is required for many careers, especially within engineering. Articulating your thinking is one thing, but implementing your research is another key part of writing. The importance of crediting others cannot be stressed enough. Citing your research is the only difference between developing your logic and stealing from someone else. Plagiarism is a heavily discussed topic at the University, and rightfully so. The repercussions far outweigh any potential benefit that comes of it. Since you deserve credit for the work put into your writing, someone else deserves credit for their contribution – no matter how small.

"When you have wit of your own, it's a pleasure to credit other people for theirs." — Criss Jami, Killosophy

There's no shame in using outside sources. It's quite the opposite; nothing good comes from using work that isn't your own and taking credit for it. Whether you mean do pass it off as your own or not, using one's work without proper citation is stealing their property.

* If you're ever in doubt, <u>a citation never hurts</u>. But when it's necessary, <u>if you're not citing, you're stealing</u>. *

Citation Necessary:	Citation NOT Necessary:
• Figures • Data & Statistics: *In 2018, 27% of UI engineering students were female (The University of Iowa College of Engineering n.d.).* • Specific Dates pertaining to something commonly unknown: *Harriet Nembhard will become the dean of the College of Engineering on June 29, 2020 (Office of Strategic Communication, 2019).* • Information about a field/topic the intended audience may not know: *Potential Evapotranspiration is the maximum amount of evaporation that can occur from plants and/or bodies of water (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 2020).* • Statements that can be disputed: *The University of Iowa has the best chemical engineering program in Iowa (Universities.com, 2019).* • Information from your own previously completed or published work • Quote or description of personal account: *"They're being made aware that you don't just design these projects for fun but rather to help others," (Skores, 2019 cited Rethwisch).*	• Historical Events: *Amos Dean was selected as the first president of the University of Iowa.* • Historical Dates: *The University of Iowa was founded in 1847.* • Statement of Fact – indisputable: *The Lichtenberger Library is in the Seamans Center.* • Foundational facts and theories of a field: *Force = mass x acceleration.* • Restated conclusions from material previously sourced in your writing • Information without clear origin: *The Iowa River runs through Iowa City.* • Your own ideas/findings: *The tensile strength of the unknown alloy was greater than that of aluminum.* • Statement verifiable across multiple sources: *In 2019, Alec Scranton was the dean of the UI College of Engineering.* • General knowledge*: *The earth revolves around the sun* * But, citations can be used to establish credibility

References

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