How to Look and Be Smart

Dr. Sandra Leavitt
Director, Graduate Writing Center and Thesis Processing Office

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Graduate Writing Center
Naval Postgraduate School
AGENDA

1. Research: borrowed and original material
2. Why sources are so important
3. Academic norms and integrity
Research: Explore, Share, Repeat...

Scholars share, because they trust they will get credit.
Simplified Research Process

SOURCE CONTRIBUTIONS

Research Question

Hunt and Gather

Analyze

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

Repeat

Write and Share

Your thesis, paper, or article
Why are sources so important?

1. Provide existing knowledge and data
2. Increase the quality, rigor, and integrity of your work
3. Allow you to model academic norms, rules, and integrity
I. Sources provide existing knowledge and data

➢ Save you **time**

➢ Improve your **accuracy**

➢ Demonstrate **your understanding** of a topic and what we know thus far
What types of information do you need?

1. **Descriptions**: Who, what, when, where
   What happened, when? By and to whom?
   What background and context do we need?

   What have others studied? How have others studied the problem?

2. **Explanations**: Why and how
   Why did an outcome happen? How have others answered my question? Do their explanations make sense?

3. **Opportunities**: What’s debated? What’s missing?

Save time • Improve accuracy • Demonstrate understanding
Famine and Conflict: What do we know?

Why Ireland exported food as thousands starved

Ireland, 1845–49
• 20–25 percent died

India under British rule, 1876–78
• 5.5 million people died

China, Great Leap Forward, 1958–62
• 20–40 million died

Nigerian Civil War, 1967–69, military blockage
• 100,000 died from combat
• 1.5 million died from starvation

S. Sudan, Somalia, Nigeria, Yemen, 2017–18
• 20 million at risk
• 2017: 50,000 Yemenis died from blockade
Why do famines happen?

1. **Descriptive Data**
   - Definitions
   - Locations, dates, deaths
   - Refugees and IDPs
   - Impacts
   - Conflicts
   - Natural disasters
   - Economic conditions
   - Regime types

2. **History of Explanations:**
   - “Famines are caused by acts of God”
   - “Famines are caused by poverty”
   - “Famines are caused by policy decisions”

3. **Opportunities:** What hasn’t been well described or explained?

Why do governments implement policies that cause famine?
Why do governments implement policies that cause famine?

Psychopathic, revolutionary leaders?
State control of citizens?
International leverage?

Weak states?
Acts of war?
Neglect or unintended consequences of war?
2. Sources can increase the quality, rigor, and integrity of your work

- Build analysis on a reliable foundation
- Raise your confidence as you work
- Transfer source’s reputation to yourself
What are “high quality” sources?

1. Contain trusted and transparent methods
2. Build on established theories and frameworks
3. Come from reputable organizations, publishers, and researchers

Seek peer-reviewed, academic presses, and other trusted institutions (.edu, .gov, .org)

Be alert to bias!

Think critically, search deeply
Which is the “better” book?

Princeton University Press, 2015

- *Eating People Is Wrong* by Cormac Ó Gráda
- Scholar
  - Univ. London
  - Hong Kong Univ.
- Chinese archives
- World’s leading authority on famine
- Other key scholars

Walker Books, 2011

- *Mao’s Great Famine* by Frank Dikötter
- The History of China’s Most Devastating Catastrophe, 1958-62

Hunt and Gather

Analyze
3. Sources help you apply academic norms and integrity

PLAGIARISM IS SUCH AN UGLY WORD. I PREFER TO SAY “CREDIT-FREE EXTERNALLY HARVESTED CONCEPT REDISTRIBUTION”.

TOM GAULD for NEW SCIENTIST
Look Smart

Accurate citations tell your readers:

- You are a professional
- You respect their intelligence and time
- Your work can be trusted
- Others can confidently continue where you left off
Be Smart
Don’t plagiarize....

U.S. Army War College
master’s degree 2007
Col. U.S. Army (ret.)
U.S. Senator John Walsh

No statute of limitations

Plagiarized master’s final paper
Former U.S. Senator John Walsh
Former National Guard leader
Former master’s degree 2014
Be Smart

Practice core principles

Fear can be a very powerful emotion that paralyzes some people and causes dangerous overreactions in others.

Everything—words, ideas, data, definitions, theories, and images—in your academic papers is assumed to be yours, **UNLESS** it’s common knowledge written in your own words, **OR** you tell your reader otherwise.
Be Smart

Practice core principles

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**SIGNAL** that which belongs to someone else:

“The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.”

*Franklin D. Roosevelt*

As President Franklin D. Roosevelt revealed to a nation on edge in his 1933 inaugural address, “the only thing we have to fear is fear itself.”
1. **Quote and cite** if you borrow *more than 5 words* in a unique sequence.

   As one unarmed protestor in Hong Kong explained, “after they tear-gassed us, we were no longer afraid” (NY Times, 2019).

2. **Paraphrase or summarize, and cite**, rewriting the original in your own words and writing style.
Final Tips

➢ Pay attention to sources and norms your readings

➢ Bookmark: libguide/nps.edu/citation
              my.nps.edu/web/gwc

➢ Study:
  • Signal phrases, paraphrasing, quoting, and summarizing
  • Debating your sources
  • Note-taking
  • Citation management software, i.e., Zotero

➢ Ask for guidance—writing coaches, librarians, faculty

➢ Practice!
We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act, but a habit.

Aristotle
(paraphrased)