

# How to Look and Be Smart

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# AGENDA

1. **Research: borrowed and original material**
2. **Why sources are so important**
3. **Academic norms and integrity**

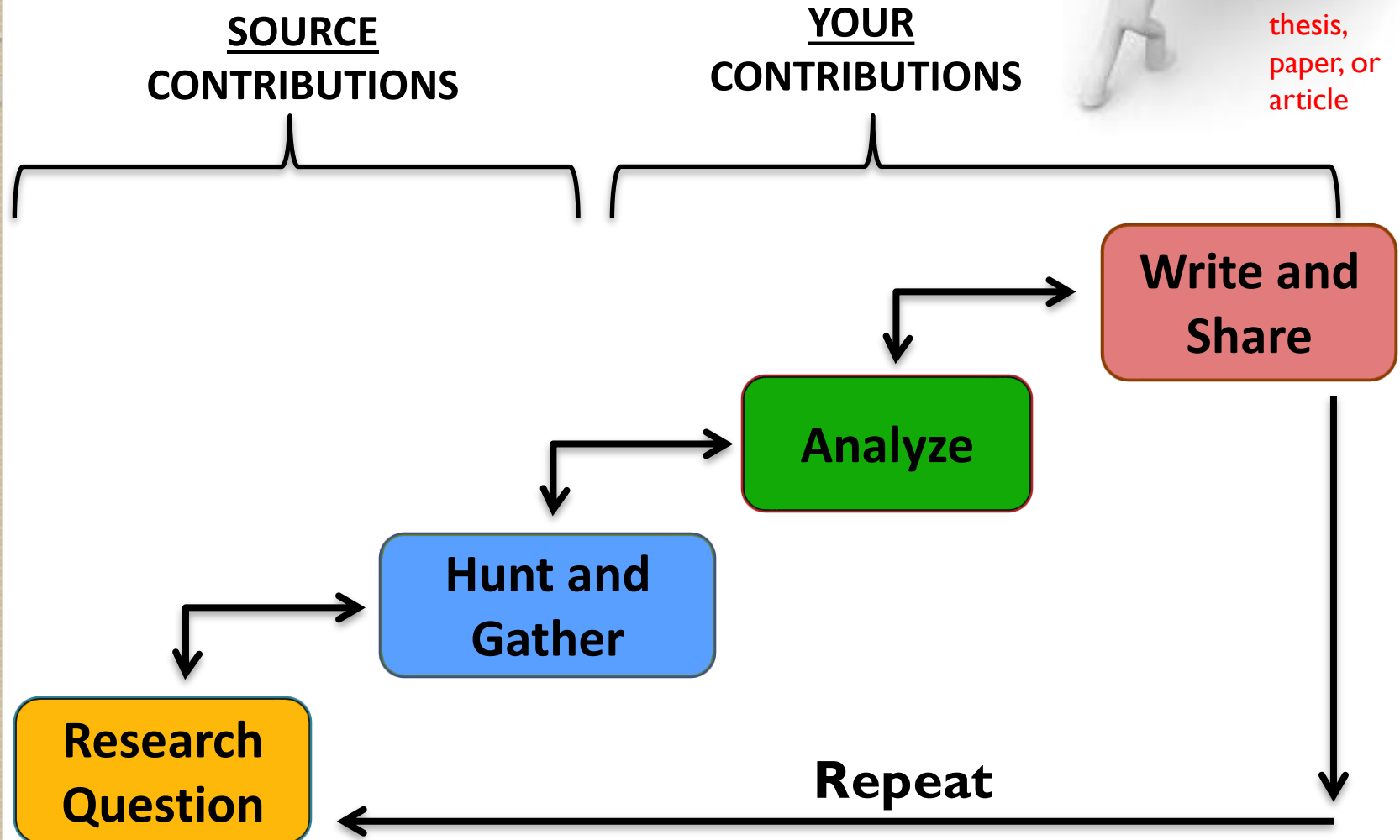


# Research: Explore, Share, Repeat...



Scholars share,  
because they trust  
they will get credit

# Simplified Research Process



# 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

Research  
Question



Hunt and  
Gather

# 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

Research  
Question



Hunt and  
Gather

# Famine and Conflict: What do we know?

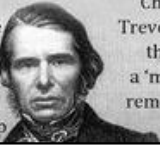
Research  
Question



Hunt and  
Gather

Why Ireland  
exported food  
as thousands  
starved

Trevelyan  
believed the  
Irish were  
lazy and  
didn't  
deserve help



Charles Edward  
Trevelyan thought  
the famine was  
a 'mechanism for  
removing surplus  
population'

**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?

Research  
Question



Hunt and  
Gather

# Why do governments implement policies that cause famine?

Research  
Question



Hunt and  
Gather



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

Hunt and  
Gather



Analyze

- 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

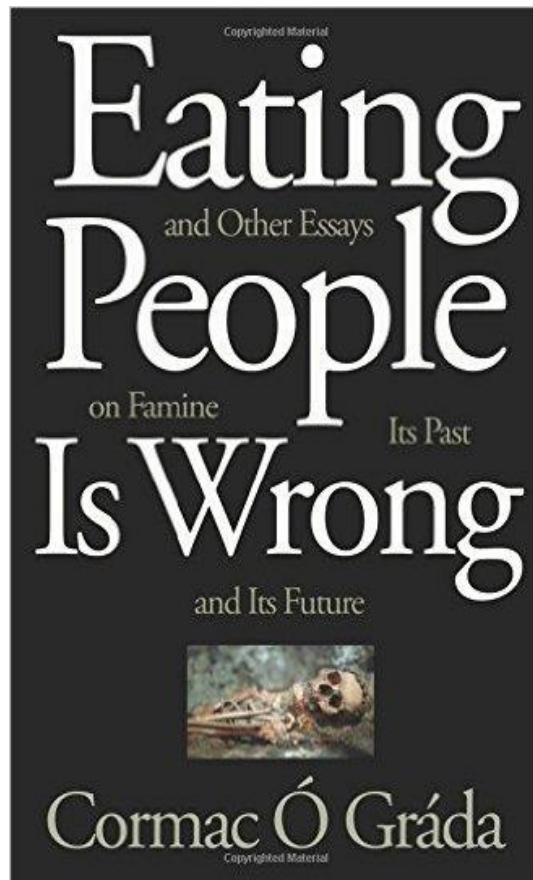
Hunt  
and  
Gather



Analyze

# Which is the “better” book?

Princeton University  
Press, 2015



World's leading  
authority on  
famine

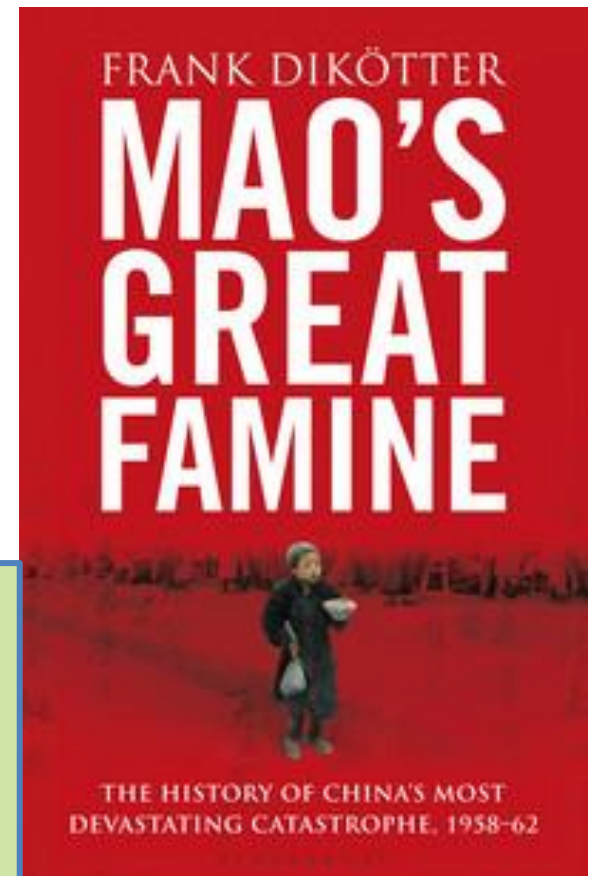
Other key  
scholars

Scholar

Univ. London;  
Hong Kong Univ.

Chinese archives

Walker Books,  
2011



Hunt  
and  
Gather



Analyze

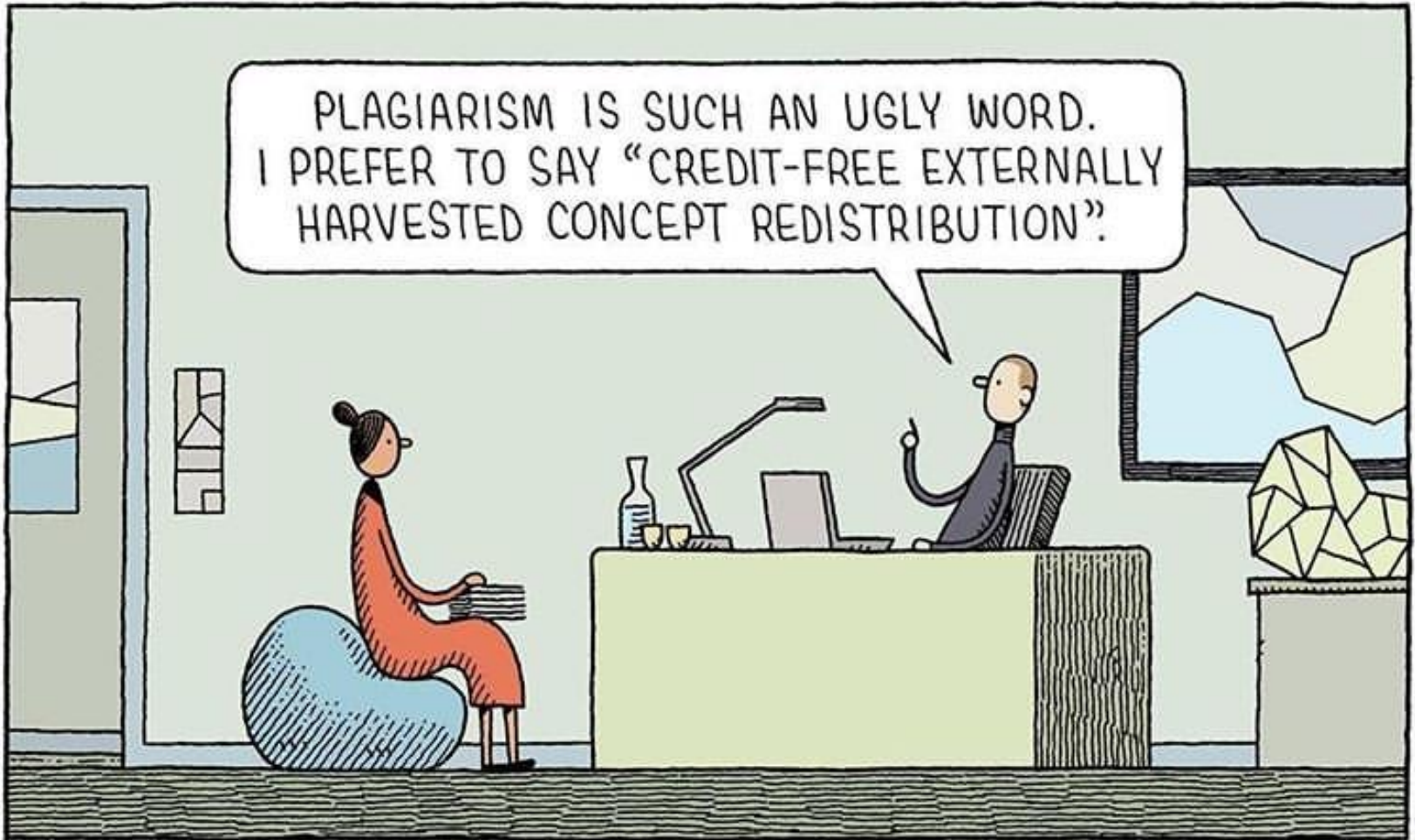


### 3. Sources help you apply academic norms and integrity

Analyze



Write and  
Share



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



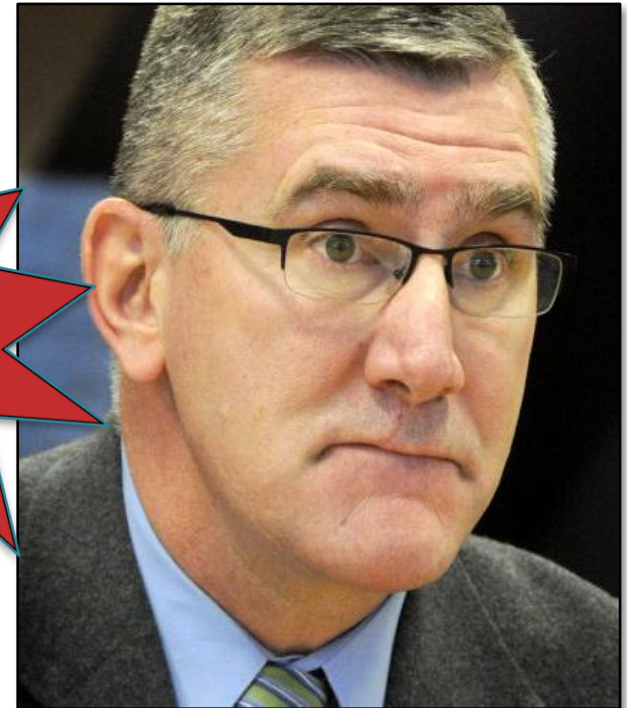
# Be Smart

## Don't plagiarize....

Write and  
Share



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



Plagiarized master's final paper  
**Former** U.S. Senator John Walsh  
**Former** National Guard leader  
**Former** master's degree 2014

*No statute  
of  
limitations*



# Be Smart

**Practice core principles**



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.*

Write and  
Share

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



# Be Smart

**Practice core principles**



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.

Write and Share

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

“The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.”<sup>65</sup>

*Franklin D. Roosevelt*



In your paper



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.”<sup>65</sup>

# Be Smart

## Practice core principles



Everything...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.

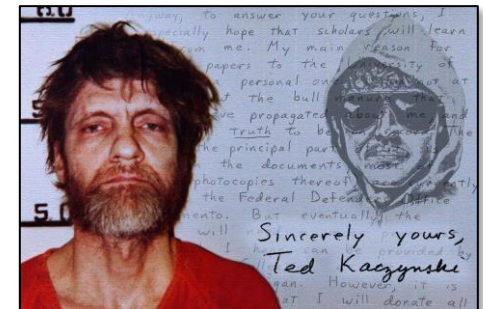
1. Quote and cite if you borrow *more than 5 words* in a unique sequence



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


aka “The Uni-bomber”



Write and  
Share

# Final Tips

- **Pay attention** to sources and norms your readings
- **Bookmark:** [libguide/nps.edu/citation](http://libguide/nps.edu/citation)  
[my.nps.edu/web/gwc](http://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!**

The background of the slide is a photograph of a mountain range under a warm, orange and yellow sky, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The mountains are silhouetted against the bright sky. Overlaid on this image is a quote in white text.

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

Aristotle

(paraphrased)