

How to Look and Be Smart

Dr. Sandra Leavitt

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Director, Graduate Writing Center
and Thesis Processing Office



Graduate Writing Center
Naval Postgraduate School

AGENDA

1. **Research: borrowed + your original contributions**
2. **Why sources are so important**
3. **Academic norms and strategies**

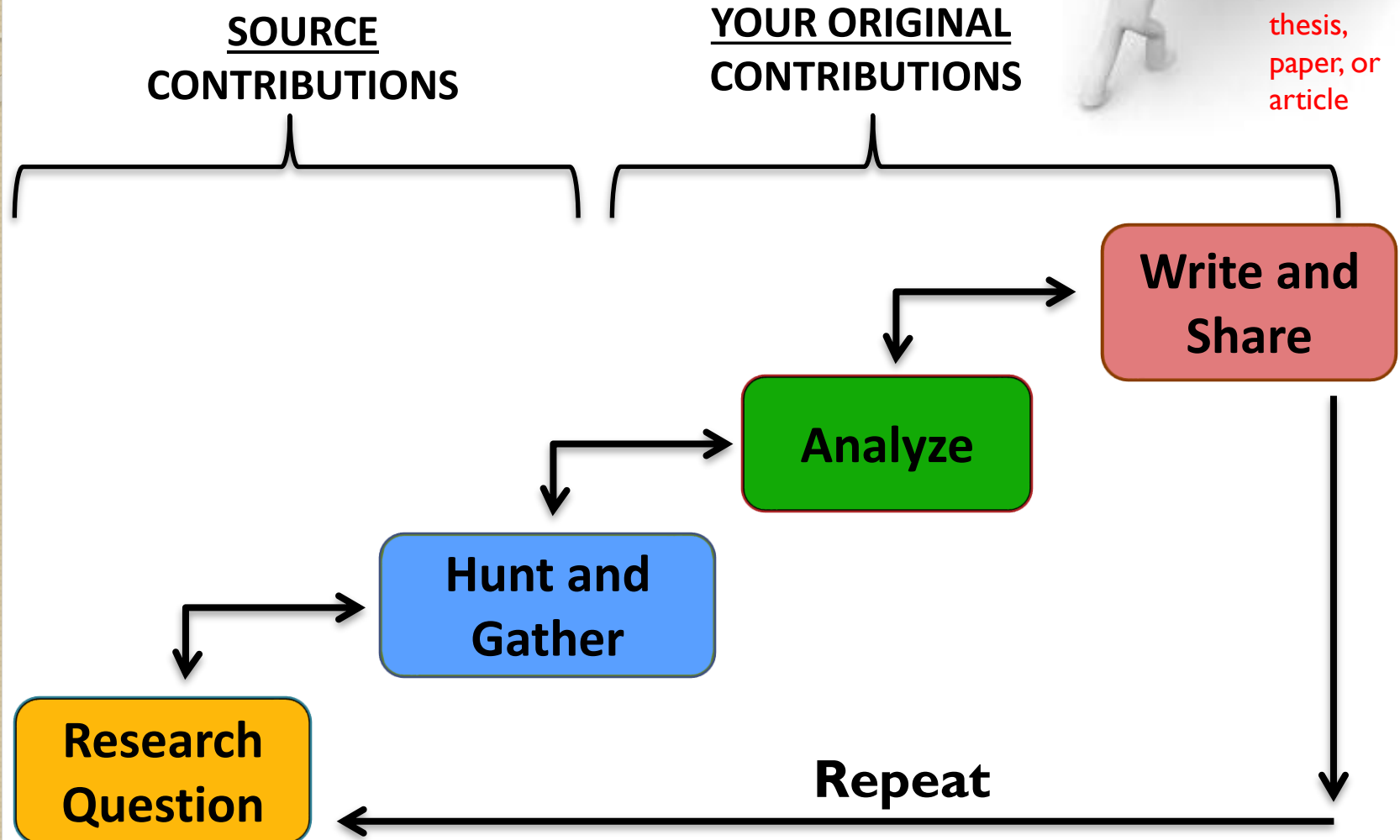


I. Research: Explore, Share, Repeat



Scholars share,
because they trust
they will get credit

Simplified Research Process



2. Why are sources so important?

- A. Provide existing knowledge and data**
- B. Increase the quality, rigor, and integrity of your work**
- C. Allow you to model academic norms, rules, and integrity**



A. 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 seek?

1. **Descriptions:** Who, what, when, where, how

What happened? By whom 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

How have others explained similar events?
How have they explained your topic?
Do their explanations make sense?

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

Save time • Improve accuracy • Demonstrate understanding

Research
Question



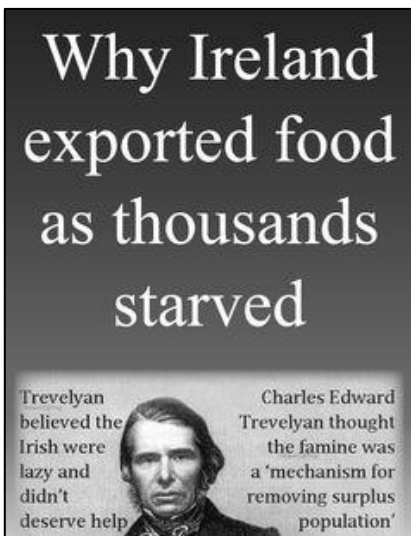
Hunt and
Gather

Famine's Link to Conflict: What do we know?

Research
Question



Hunt and
Gather



Ireland, 1845–49
20–25 percent died



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



China, Great Leap Forward, 1958–62
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 of starvation
2017: 50,000 died from blockade in Yemen

Why do famines happen?

1. Descriptive Data

- Definitions
- Locations, dates, deaths
- Refugees and IDPs
- Impacts
- Conflicts, wars
- Natural disasters
- Economic conditions
- Regime policies

2. 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?



Psychopathic,
revolutionary leaders?

State control of citizens?

International leverage?



Weak states?

Acts of war?

Unintended consequence
of war?

Where should we put our efforts and money?

Research
Question



Hunt and
Gather

B. Good sources increase the quality, rigor, and integrity of your work

Hunt and
Gather

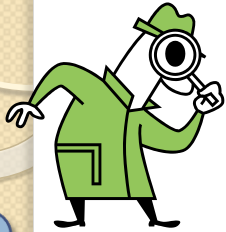


Analyze

- Build analysis on a **reliable foundation**
- Raise your **confidence** as you work
- Transfer **source's reputation** to yourself

What are “high quality” sources?

Works with good sources!



- Build on established **theories and frameworks**
- Contain trusted and transparent **methods**
- Come from **reputable** organizations, publishers, speakers, and researchers



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



Be alert to bias!



Think critically, search deeply

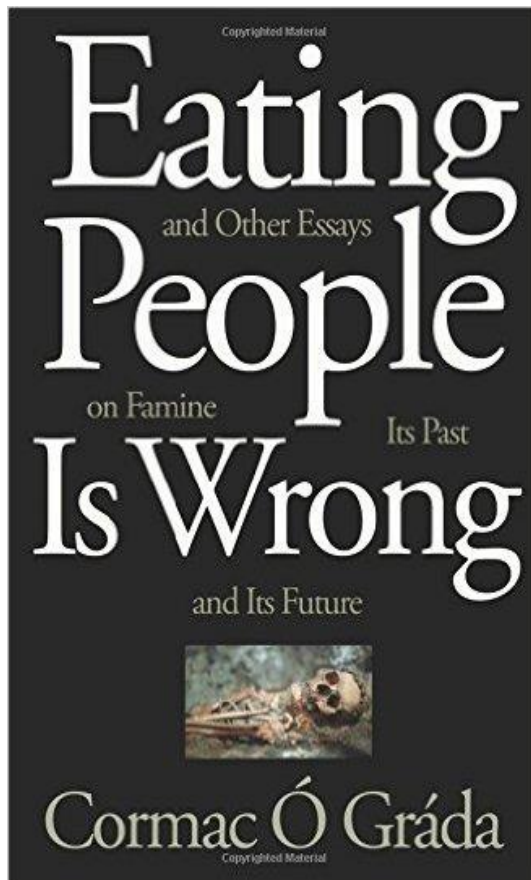
Hunt
and
Gather



Analyze

Which is the “better” book?

Princeton University
Press, 2015



World's leading
authority on
famine

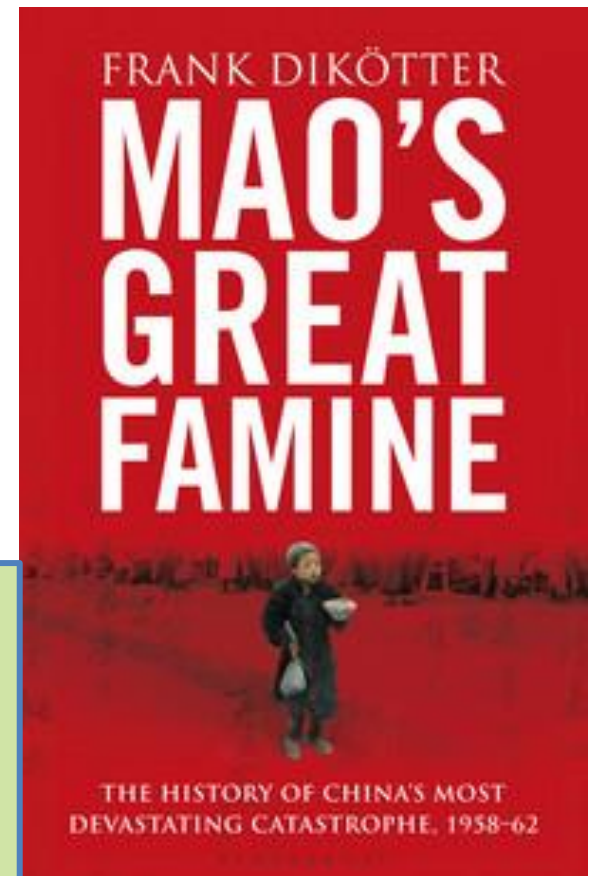
Other key
scholars

Scholar

Univ. London;
Hong Kong Univ.

Chinese archives

Walker Books,
2011



Hunt
and
Gather



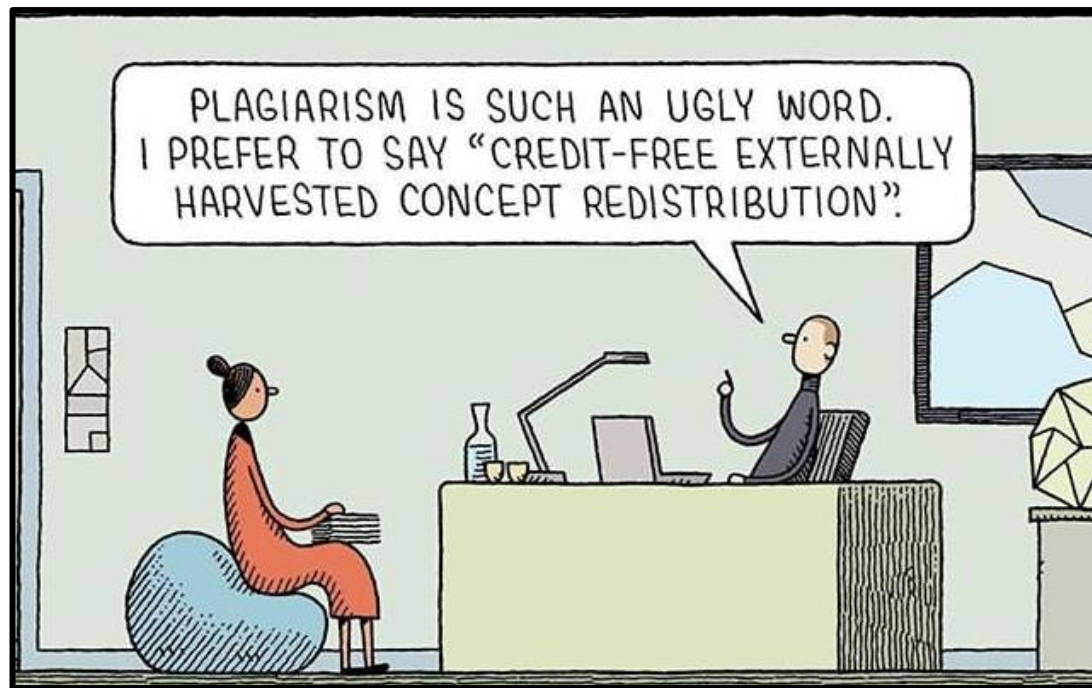
Analyze

C. Sources help you apply academic norms and demonstrate integrity

Analyze



Write and
Share



Tom Gauld, for *New Scientist*

Look Smart

Accurate citations tell your readers:

- You are a **professional**
- You did your **homework**
- You **respect** your readers' intelligence and time
- Your own work can be **trusted**
- Others can **confidently continue** where you left off



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 it's from someone else.*

Write and
Share

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



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 it's from someone else.

Write and Share

SIGNAL that which belongs to someone else:

President Franklin D. Roosevelt rallied a nation on edge during his 1933 inaugural address, explaining that “the only thing we have to fear is fear itself.”⁶⁵



Be Smart

Practice basic rules



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 it's from someone else.

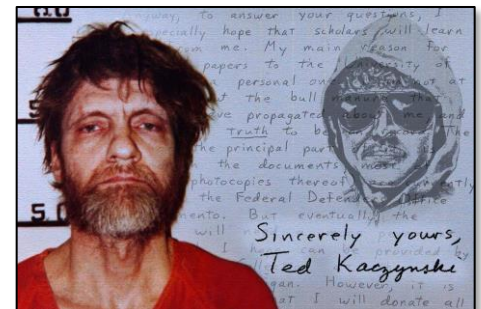
1. Quote and cite if you borrow *more than 5 words* in a unique sequence



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
my.nps.edu/web/gwc
- **Re-learn how to:**
 - Take notes
 - Use signal phrases, paraphrase, quote, and summarize
 - Debate your sources
 - Use citation management software, i.e., Zotero
- **Ask** 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)