

March 2018

Quality sources

Learning Hub Conference



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Academic skills workshops

We offer help with academic writing, reading, assignments and test or exam preparation.

These workshops run weekly in semester 1.



Workshops: Sign up
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booth on Level 1



Learning Outcomes



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- Assess sources for their quality
- Evaluate sources using a criteria
- Integrate sources into your assignment
- Use appropriate reporting verbs

B101/B102 research assignment instructions



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This is a research assignment, so we want you to use academic resources such as the library databases to find credible academic sources to support your argument. Your essay must use at least 5 sources (ideally more), and at least 3 of your minimum 5 sources must be from academic sources.

NOTE: The minimum five sources required for this assignment are in addition to the resources we provide you in this course.

Evaluating source quality



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In an academic assignment it is important to use evidence that is reliable, accurate objective, and up to date.

For example the quality of a source can vary widely.

Compare a magazine article with an article published in an academic journal.

Evaluating sources of information



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One way to evaluate sources is to apply the CRAAP test

CURRENCY: when was it published? University?

RELEVANCE: does it relate to your question? Is the level of information appropriate to University?

AUTHORITY: who is the author, publisher, source? Do they have the necessary credentials?

ACCURACY: is the information supported by evidence? Can you verify this with other sources?

PURPOSE: what is it for? Is the purpose clear?

Evaluate resources

When you search for information, you are going to find lots of it ... but is it accurate and reliable? You will have to determine this for yourself, and you can use the following principles as a guide. Remember that different criteria will be more or less important depending on your situation or need.

Evaluating information - A checklist



1. Evaluate sources using criteria

Academically credible sources



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When researching a topic for a university assignment, 'academic' sources are preferred over other types of writing. Academically credible sources can be identified as follows:

- Written in an academic style with formal language
- Objective: Uses objective language e.g. 'This paper will discuss..' rather than 'I will discuss'
- Opinions are supported with evidence i.e. citing of information e.g. Smith (2001) explains
- Use a recommended database to locate your sources e.g. Business source Premier, Google scholar, Emerald insight

Know the credentials of the author. Do they have the relevant qualifications from a recognised university or organisation? Are the articles published in reputable journals?

Academic sources



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The most common forms of academic sources are

Books

Journal articles

Published reports

Finding quality sources



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Use a recommended database to locate your sources e.g. Business Source Premier, Google Scholar, Emerald Insight

Bus 101 and Bus 102 students are recommended to go through the Library homepage www.library.auckland.ac.nz

Want to know more? Checkout the following

<http://www.learninghub.ac.nz/assessment/finding-quality-sources/searching-databases/>

Using Abstracts to determine usefulness of source



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Most Databases will supply the abstract of articles as well as bibliographic information. Reading abstracts is a very useful way of determining whether an article is relevant to your topic.

Check out the link below for more information

<http://www.learninghub.ac.nz/assessment/finding-quality-sources/using-abstracts/>

Using research in your writing



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Paraphrases & summaries

Citations

Reporting verbs

Using research in your essay



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You will include the information you have researched to formulate your point of view/argument. The researched information will be used in your essay to give support to/back up your argument, that is, provide evidence. You will use paraphrases, **summaries** and sometimes direct quotes to illustrate these ideas in your writing.

Lack of referencing as well as copying large amounts of information from other sources can be seen as plagiarism (cheating) and you may face penalties.

Paraphrasing



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Write the author's ideas in your own words as a paraphrase or summary.

Original text below from Brown, 1998

“The link between culture and strategy cannot be avoided. The key strategic elements, such as how the environment is seen and interpreted, how input data is analysed and how the various parties within the organisation will react, are determined by the various factors which influence and make up the culture of the organisation”

Paraphrase of text: The link between strategy and culture is shown in the way that the key elements of strategy are influenced by cultural factors (Brown, 1998).

Citing



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Integrating citations (paraphrases and summaries) into your writing ***Structures for inserting citations into writing (for a book)***

Example below is for Citing from a book with one author

(author+ date) at end of sentence/paragraph; (a comma after author)

author +(date) + verb at start of sentence/paragraph;

or 'according to' + author + (date);

<http://www.cite.auckland.ac.nz>

Inserting citations (two ways)

Example: a book with one author



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Paraphrase of text: The link between strategy and culture is shown in the way that the key elements of strategy are influenced by cultural factors.

Cited paraphrase of text with citation at beginning of paraphrase: Brown (1998) asserts that the link between strategy and culture is shown in the way that the key elements of strategy are influenced by cultural factors.

Cited paraphrase of text with citation at end of paraphrase : The link between strategy and culture is shown in the way that the key elements of strategy are influenced by cultural factors (Brown, 1998).

<http://www.learninghub.ac.nz/assessment/citing-and-referencing/embedding-your-sources/>

Reporting verbs



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Putting a point of view:

advocate

argue (that)

suggest (that)

assert (that)

contend (that)

put the argument

Explaining facts or evidence

explain

provide a definition

report (that)

state (that)

confirm (that)

show (that)

Example 2



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The proposed move to open up New Zealand to honey imports for the first time could have numerous effects on the industry. The more immediate concern would be the low quality honey being imported into New Zealand from other countries which could be repackaged and then on-sold as New Zealand honey (McAvinue, 2011). This could create customer distrust towards New Zealand honey and the whole industry would suffer. As McAvinue (2011) points out, a less immediate, but far more serious consequence of allowing honey subject to lower health standards and regulations into the country is the introduction of pests and diseases.

Write a reference list



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Don't forget to write a reference list APA style to include all the sources you have cited in your essay.



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Good luck!
Kia pai te mahi!

