

WRITING TIP

STUDY SKILLS: Citations

In your writing, you will often quote the ideas of others. Whenever you do this, make sure you include details of the original author, the publication and the year of publication. You do this in what is called a citation.

This Writing Worksheet is about avoiding plagiarism. Plagiarism is the action of taking other people's ideas and claiming they are your own. The activities below will improve your understanding of how you can avoid plagiarism as an academic writer.

Practice

1 Match the reporting verbs to the descriptions of the author's stance.

assumes	argues	demonstrates	denies
implies	mentions	states	suggests

- a _____ says something clearly and directly
- b _____ says something is not true
- c _____ makes a comment which is additional or not central to the argument
- d _____ accepts something is true without providing any evidence
- e _____ shows something to be true through evidence or argument
- f _____ makes a strong case for something which might be controversial or different to what other people think
- g _____ suggests something without saying it directly
- h _____ says something without making a strong argument for it

2 Read the texts. Decide whether you would use a direct quote (DQ) or paraphrase (P) to cite each one.

- a _____ 'I hold it true, whate'er befall;
I feel it when I sorrow most;
'Tis better to have loved and lost
Than never to have loved at all.'
– Alfred Tennyson, in his poem *In Memoriam A.H.H.* (1849)
- b _____ 'Sir W. Batten not knowing how to remove his wine, did dig a pit in the garden, and laid it in there; and I took the opportunity of laying all the papers of my office that I could not otherwise dispose of. And in the evening Sir W. Pen and I did dig another, and put our wine in it; and I my Parmazan cheese, as well as my wine and some other things.'
– Samuel Pepys, writing about the Great Fire of London in his diary (1666)
- c _____ 'In overthrowing me you have cut down in Saint-Domingue only the trunk of the tree of liberty; it will spring up again from the roots, for they are numerous and they are deep.'
– Toussaint L'Ouverture, Governor-General of Saint-Domingue, talking to the people arresting him (1802)

- d** _____ 'The office of the sovereign, be it a monarch or an assembly, consisteth in ... the procuration of the safety of the people, to which he is obliged by the law of nature.'
– Thomas Hobbes, writing about the role of a national ruler in *Leviathan* (1651)
- e** _____ 'We must not forget that when radium was discovered no one knew that it would prove useful in hospitals. The work was one of pure science. And this is a proof that scientific work must not be considered from the point of view of the direct usefulness of it.'
– Marie Curie, talking about her research (1921)

3 Write a citation for each text in Exercise 2. Remember to use a citing phrase.

4  **Discuss. Are the statements common knowledge? Mark each statement C (common knowledge) or N (needs to be cited).**

- a** _____ Knowledge can be defined as justified true belief.
- b** _____ Uranium-235 has a half-life of 703.8 million years.
- c** _____ Smoking can cause lung cancer.
- d** _____ Diego Velázquez's *Las Meninas* is one of the most provocative paintings in Western art.
- e** _____ Since 1992, the rate at which the Antarctic is losing ice has more than doubled.
- f** _____ The British continued to export food from Ireland during the Great Famine of 1845–1849.
- g** _____ Although people used to think the *Magna Moralia* was written by Aristotle, in fact it was probably written by someone else.
- h** _____ The revelation of truth in a forgery is an important theme in the work of Borges.
- i** _____ Jupiter is the largest planet in the Solar System.
- j** _____ Henry VIII was married six times.
- k** _____ The high murder rate in the USA is due to the high rate of gun ownership.
- l** _____ Charles Dickens wrote *Great Expectations*.

Reflect

5  **Discuss. How can you work out whether something is common knowledge?**