2016 Fall – SOWK 305 – Outcome 5 – describe why citing the work of others is important

After this session, students will be able to describe why citing the work of others is important.

Directions

1. Working on your own, read the below background reading and answer the exercise questions.
2. Working as a group, discuss your answers and thoughts about the material.
3. Formulate a list of the most important points your group believes the rest of class should know.
4. Turn in your sheet at the end of class.

Background Reading

Acknowledging Your Sources

There are a variety of reasons for acknowledging the sources upon which you have built your own work. Here are the key reasons:

- **To distinguish your own work** from that of your sources.
- **To receive credit for the research you’ve done** on a project.
- **To establish the credibility and authority** of your knowledge and ideas.
- **To place your own ideas in context**, locating your work in the larger intellectual conversation about your topic.
- **To permit your reader to pursue your topic further** by reading more about it.
- **To permit your reader to check** on your use of source material.

In all of these reasons, the essential element is intellectual honesty. You must provide your reader with an honest representation of your work so that the reader may evaluate its merits fairly. Proper citation demonstrates the depth and breadth of your reading—in effect, documenting the hard work you’ve put into your research. Proper citation permits a reader to determine the extent of your knowledge of the topic. And, most important, proper citation permits a reader to more readily understand and appreciate your original contribution to the subject. In contrast, a very well-informed, complex, or sophisticated piece of work, without adequate or accurate acknowledgment of sources, will only provoke your reader’s concern or suspicion.

Such intellectual honesty is important, not only for your reader, but also for you as the author. For example, you may footnote a paper diligently only to discover that you can hardly find an original idea or sentence of your own. Then you’ll know you have more work to do in order to develop a substantial original idea or thesis.

Excerpt from the Academic Integrity website of Princeton University at:
https://www.princeton.edu/pr/pub/integrity/pages/sources/
Exercises
Choose the response that best answers the question.

Scholarly writers typically quote from a source when:
- a text is the subject of a paper (Example: a novel, a poem, a speech)
- the author is famous for the quotation (Example: "I have a dream")
- the writer can use the quote to make his/her own point
- all of the above

Scholars use the work of other scholars in their own work in order to:
- establish where research has already been done.
- use existing knowledge to create new knowledge.
- identify gaps in scholarship.
- all of the above

All of the following are reasons to cite the work of others scholars except:
- To give credit where credit is due
- To allow readers to read more in-depth about your topic if they choose
- To ensure financial compensation for the creator of the original work
- To lend credibility to your work

Discussion Questions
1. Scholarship is a form of conversation. Discuss an idea, invention, or concept that has evolved over time. Examples might include: treatments for illnesses, technological advances, clinical approaches in the field of sociology, etc… Discuss how the ideas of multiple people over a span of time took this “thing” and developed it.
What should the rest of class know?
Prepare a brief list of key points your group believes the rest of the class must know.

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What do you still need?
After doing all of this, what do you still have questions about?
Notes for Group Presentations

Group 1 – define and detect plagiarism

Group 2 – define examples of intellectual property

Group 3 – describe copyright

Group 4 – describe why citing the work of others is important

Group 5 – identify the elements of citations for journal articles and books

Group 6 – construct citations

Group 7 – employ citations to locate a resource