Provide Accurate Documentation of Source Material

Accurate documentation of source material is a foundational aspect of scholarly communication. Deception and dishonesty disrupt advancement of knowledge. Explicit connections among scholarly works function as building blocks. The practice of carefully and accurately citing sources facilitates the scholar’s communication of his or her indebtedness to others’ work.

Successful graduate students are conscientious about giving credit to their sources. There are numerous benefits:

- Citations reflect how your thinking is connected with other scholarship on your topic. Your citations show that you are familiar with work that has already been done in areas related to your topic. Your citations are evidence that your own thinking has been informed by previous scholarship.

- These connections with the literature contribute to the development of your own ideas. You can build on previous research and gain insights relevant to your own work.

- Demonstration of the connections your work has with other scholarship on your topic adds to the authority of your work. It places your own work in a context of established scholarship. If your work responds to and builds upon the work of others, your work will be recognized as a valid contribution to your field.

- Your readers will know where to locate your sources. Documenting your trail of thinking will enable further research in the area.