Homework 1: Citations
Intro to Environmental Science

Citations in Scientific Writing

Professional scientific communication is done primarily through scientific papers. A paper will either report the results of a study or summarize the results of many studies, but the exact format of the paper will vary between fields and professions.

Citation formats will also vary somewhat between fields, but understanding a few basic rules will make it easy to adapt to different requirements.

1. Parenthetical citations (See next page) should be placed after every sentence that contains scientific information you did not learn by experiment. This means nearly every sentence will require a citation.

2. Citations allow the reader to check the accuracy of your information and review your argument. It is essential for a parenthetical citations to be placed after every sentence so that each of your statements can be matched with a source.

3. Plagiarism: Citations are protection against plagiarism. While you should use your own words in your writing for the purpose of clarity, citations indicate that you are giving proper credit to the people who supplied the information for your paper.

4. Some statements must be supported by citations from multiple sources.

5. A list of citations at the end of your paper is required. The list of citations will contain the information necessary for the reader to look up sources.

In this assignment, you will recopy the short paragraph below and insert appropriate parenthetical citations. You will then create a list of MLA citations at the end of the paragraph.

Alligators are common high-level predators in Florida ( ). They subsist primarily on fish, mammals and any animal they can catch ( ). They may be common partially because they are cold blooded( ). On average only 10% of the energy of a lower trophic level is transferred to the next trophic level, but some species are more efficient than others( ). Cold-blooded predators like alligators don’t use as much energy generating heat as warm-blooded predators( ). This may be the reason that they can reach higher biomass.
Acceptable Sources:

- Your Textbook.
- .Government or University Websites (.edu or .gov)
- www.sciencedaily.com
- Peer-Reviewed Scientific Journals

The following websites will also help.

- University of Georgia, Museum of Natural History: http://dromus.nhm.uga.edu/~GMNH/gawildlife/index.php?page=speciespages/species_page&key=amississippiensis

Parenthetical Citations (MLA Format)

Book  (“Author(s)” Date, Page Number)
Website (“Author or Agency” “Date Content was Created”)
Journal (“Author(s) Date)

List of Citations (MLA Format)

Journal
Authors. "Title." Journal Name Volume (Date): From Page-Page. Print.

Website

Book
Lastname, Firstname. Title of Book. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication. Medium of Publication.

Many more citation examples can be found at the website of the Florida State University at Jacksonville Library.
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Rubric: Use this rubric to evaluate whether or not you have met the criteria for this assignment.

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>No credit will be give if the assignment is:</th>
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| 3 points    | All statements are supported by a parenthetical citation and all sources are listed in MLA format after the text. May include major formatting errors such as missing dates, authors etc as long as the original source can be found. |

| 5 points    | All statements are supported by a parenthetical citation and all sources listed in MLA format after the text. Minor formatting errors will be corrected, but points will not be taken off. |

Note: Because poorly done citations do not serve their intended purpose, grading for this assignment will be strict. Partial credit will be very limited.