

Oral Citations

You must make it clear where the information you're using comes from when you give a presentation with research. Unlike in written essays, you cannot include in-text citations in parentheses, like (Smith 5). **Oral citations** have the same functions as written ones: they tell your audience where you got your information and why they should believe it.

There are generally **four elements** required for oral citations:

- **WHO:** Arguably the most important element. Include an element that lets the audience know where this information comes from: the author's name or the publisher's title. Choose whichever element best communicates the credibility of the source to the audience. For example, you might choose the publisher's title for a relatively unknown author at the *New York Times* or the author's name for an op-ed in the same paper written by a well-known expert. Who has the credentials? The author(s)? The publisher? Using **an author tag** (a phrase that combines the author's name and a verb to introduce information) will help to smoothly integrate this step.
- **WHAT:** What kind of source is it? An article, a report, a book, etc.? Mention that when incorporating
- **WHY:** Include *why* we should believe this evidence. What about the source makes you believe it is credible? Are they an expert in their field? Is it a long-running, respected publication? In rare cases, the name of the author may be enough to give credibility to your particular audience. Many people will not need Ben Franklin's credibility explained to them. However, this is where knowing your audience is vital: imagine speaking to a group of foreign exchange students learning about the American Revolution for the first time, they may need more background information.
- **WHEN:** Include a year, date, or general term that indicates when the source was published. This lets the audience know how recent the information is, which affects credibility. If you have two articles on AI and one was written in 2005 and one was written last week, which one do you think is more accurate to the current situation? On the other hand, an older source may give you respectability, such as referring to Aristotle's *Poetics*.

Examples:

- "In a *YouTube* video titled 'The Balloon Boy Hoax' from October 18th, 2009, author and internet personality John Green describes..."

Who: John Green	Author tag verb: describes	What: a <i>YouTube</i> video
Why: author and internet personality (credibility comes from vocation)		When: October 18th, 2009

- "In her 1971 book, Jane Goodall claims..."

Who: Jane Goodall	Author tag verb: claims	What: book
Why: N/A, speaker assumes audience knows Goodall and her career		When: 1971

- "*Tallahassee Democrat*, the local newspaper, published an article last week that shows..."

Who: <i>Tallahassee Democrat</i>	Author tag verb: shows	What: article
Why: local newspaper (credibility comes from proximity)		When: last week

Examples by source type:

Articles

If you are quoting from a magazine, a newspaper, a journal article, **or an article published on a website**, give a quick statement about the author as well as the full date and title of the publication. This applies to both print sources and those found in the TSC Library databases.

- “A Newsweek magazine article from December 4, 2005, lists bankruptcy as the...”
- “In the latest edition of *The Lancet*, Senior Editor Chloe Wilson makes the case for...”

You do not need to give the title of the article, though it can be useful if you’re differentiating between sources or you want to draw attention to the title. You do not need to give the page number nor the name of the electronic database that cataloged the publication.

Books

If you are citing information from a book, provide the title of the book, year of publication, and a brief mention of the author’s credentials. You don’t have to mention the page, publisher, or city of publication:

- “In his 2005 book, *Eating to Be Smart*, Charles Larson, a registered dietitian, notes that consuming yogurt...”

Webpages

If you are citing a website, you need to establish the credibility and currency of the site. You’ll want to include something about the site’s credibility and include the date it was last updated.

Tip: If you cannot find this information on a website, you may want to consider finding a different source.

- “One of the most active developers of neurotechnology, Cyberkinetics, claims on its website, last updated on March 24, 2022, that...”

In an oral citation of a website, you do not need to give the URL.

Interviews

If you are quoting an interview you did, give the person’s name, a statement of their credentials, and the date of the interview. Be sure to specify that the information is from a personal interview:

- “In a personal interview on January 15th with Nancy Manes, head of cardiac care at Central DuPage Hospital, the most important...”

Tip: Interviews are not the same as conversations or undocumented recollections of class lectures.

NOTE:

For most (if not all) presentations, you’ll need oral citations and a works cited/reference page (though you will not read those aloud). Think of oral citations as taking the place of in-text citations in a traditional essay: you still need the longer citations at the end of the assignment. The end citations will follow the appropriate citation style for your assignment.