



**Connors Writing
Center**

Cite it Right

Info Session on Citation

Why Citation Styles Matter — and How to Use Them Effectively

Session Overview

- Why different fields use different citation systems
- How to check auto-generated citations
- Common pitfalls + fixes
- UNH citation resources and handouts
- Q&A



Citation Is a Communication System

- Citation styles = disciplinary communication norms
- They serve different rhetorical purposes
 - e.g., sciences emphasize recency & reproducibility (APA)
 - humanities emphasize interpretation & authorship (MLA)

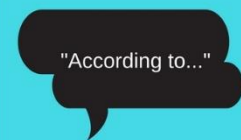
Citing:
Why it Matters



Shows that
you have
done your
research



You give
credit to
others for
their work



You avoid
plagiarism
when you cite
all your
sources



You help your
readers locate
the sources
that you used

Examples Across Fields

- **APA (Social Sciences):** Focus on date → timeliness of research
 - **MLA (Humanities):** Focus on author/page → close reading + textual evidence
 - **Chicago (History):** Notes/bibliography → archival and source-rich work
 - **IEEE / CSE:** Numbered systems → efficiency in technical fields
- Optional visual: side-by-side comparison of three citations*

Style	Bibliography / Works Cited Entry	In-Text Citation Example
APA (7th ed.)	Darwin, C. (1859). <i>On the origin of species by means of natural selection</i> . John Murray.	(Darwin, 1859)
MLA (9th ed.)	Darwin, Charles. <i>On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection</i> . John Murray, 1859.	(Darwin 73)
Chicago (17th ed.) – Notes & Bibliography	Darwin, Charles. <i>On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection</i> . London: John Murray, 1859.	Footnote: Charles Darwin, <i>On the Origin of Species</i> (London: John Murray, 1859), 73.

What Stays the Same in All Styles

- Credit original authors
- Provide traceability (version, year published)
- Support your authority/credibility
- Avoid plagiarism



Citation Generators – Benefits and Limitations

Why Generators Are Helpful

- Save time
- Help format unfamiliar styles
- Useful starting point

Why You MUST Check Their Work

- They often:
 - Invent or distort sources
 - Create incorrect capitalization
 - Mix citation styles
 - Drop required fields
 - Format wrong order/italics/punctuation

How Citation Generators Work:

1. User-Submitted Information (Book Entry)

Author First Name: Jesper
Author Last Name: Juul
Source Title: The Art of Failure: An Essay on the Pain of Playing Video Games
Publisher: MIT Press
Publisher Location: Cambridge, MA
Publication Year: 2013

2. User Selects Citation Style

MLA 8 APA 6 CMOS

3. Citation Output

MLA 8: Juul, Jesper. *The Art of Failure: An Essay on the Pain of Playing Video Games*. MIT Press, 2013.

APA 6: Juul, J. (2013). *The art of failure: An essay on the pain of playing video games*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

CMOS: Juul, Jesper. *The Art of Failure: An Essay on the Pain of Playing Video Games*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2013.

How to Check a Generated Citation (Step-by-Step)

- **Verify the source actually exists**
 - Search title or DOI
 - Check journal/book publisher
- **Compare structure to an official guide (Purdue OWL)**
- **Check details: author order, year, version, volume/issue, page range, URL**
- **Check punctuation and italics** (most common mistakes!)
- **Check in-text citation matches reference entry**

Quick Checklist

Did I verify the source exists?

Am I using one citation style consistently?

Do my in-text and reference entries match?

Am I using the latest edition of the style?

Did I check the required punctuation and italics?

Model “Bad vs. Fixed” Examples

E.E Cummings Poem

AI Generated Citation

Cummings, E. E. “Anyone Lived in a Pretty How Town.” Complete Poems: 1904-1962, edited by George J. Firmage, 1st ed, Liveright, 2016.

Common Student Mistakes

Capitalizing titles incorrectly

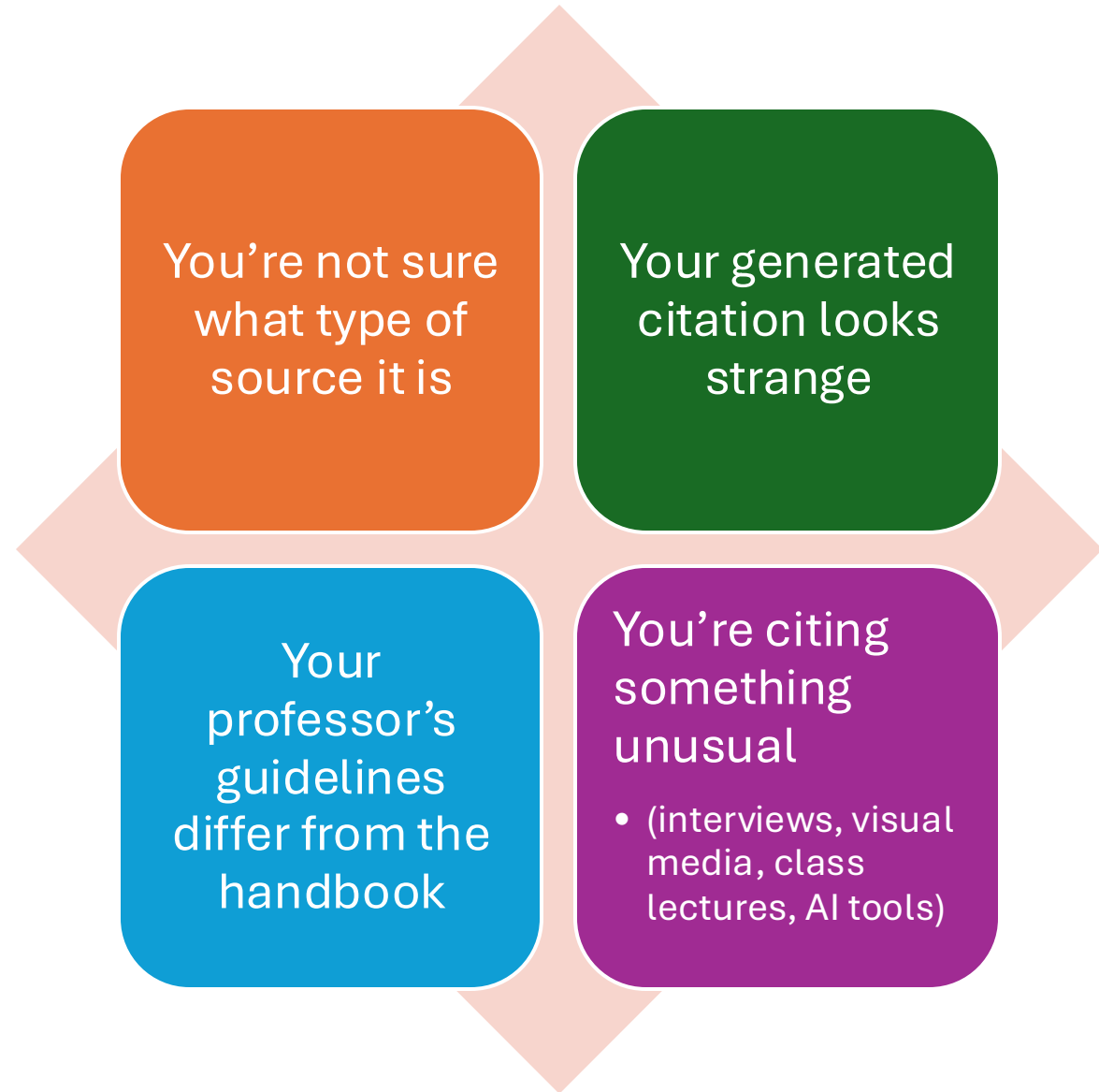
Missing DOIs

Using outdated URL formats

Incorrect publisher info (especially for books)

Mixing MLA/APA elements
unconsciously

When to Ask for Help



What to Do When You're Not Sure

- Return to the original style guide
- Check multiple reputable sources
- Ask professors about discipline-specific expectations
- Bring citations to the Writing Center for a second look

Where to Find Citation Guides on Campus

- Connors Writing Center
 - Citation handouts (APA, MLA, Chicago)
 - Avoiding plagiarism
 - Using sources effectively
- Library subject guides
- UNH Academic Integrity policies
 - Include QR code to the webpage for students to scan.*

Recommended External Resources

- Purdue OWL
- APA Style website
- MLA Handbook online
- Chicago Manual of Style Q&A
- Zotero / Mendeley for reference management



Writing Center Services

- One-on-one writing consultations
- Citation review help
- Support for any writing task
- In-person and online



Q&A

- If you have citations you want to check, please share them!