Style & Substance
2018 Dissertation Forum

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Part I: Citation Style

Substance and Style - 2018 Dissertation Forum
Citation Styles: The Basics

● Most of you know a few styles (APA, MLA, Chicago, etc.), but there are hundreds of them
  ○ Many journals have their own style
● Good news! You only have to pick one!
  ○ Talk with your advisor, or others in your field to determine the best/standard style for your dissertation and discipline
  ○ When in doubt ask a librarian
● Look first at the most common styles, as well as other dissertations from previous years in our collection
  ○ But make sure to choose a good/consistent example
Citation Styles: The Basics

● The most important thing is to be…
  ○ Consistent
  ○ Clear (make sure they can find “the thing”)

● The library has experts to help you find the information, but we can’t do/check the citations for you
  ○ We will give you a hand, but not going to cook the whole meal

● If going with APA or MLA, you can always look at the OWL, the Online Writing Lab (from Purdue)
  ○ They created such a good guide on these sources, most libraries (including ours) links to their site: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/
Citation Styles: The Basics

- Styles are constantly evolving
  - They change over time, from small updates to major version overhauls. Make sure to get a clear idea of what your advisor expects

- Many databases include citations on their sites
  - Usually up to date, but often need a little “tweak”
  - The library has the newest guides (some in print, but many online)
Citation Styles: The Basics

● Discussion:
  ○ What style are you using?
  ○ Have you run into any issues?
  ○ How did you solve them?
Citation Management Tools

- Many options exist if you would like to learn and utilize a citation management software, or application
  - Some free to all, some free to students at USF, others cost a few $
- The USF Libraries can help with the following citation management tools:
  - EndNote
  - RefWorks
  - Mendeley
  - Zotero (a little)
- All work in similar ways and all (that I have used) interact with MS Word
Citation Management Tools

- The “Big 2”: EndNote and Refworks
  - These are the two citation systems that have been long-supported by
- RefWorks
  - Web-based bibliography and database manager
  - Many of our databases have direct export buttons for RefWorks
  - Help page and more information here: http://guides.lib.usf.edu/refworks
- EndNote
  - Has a desktop (software) version, as well as a web version
  - We recommend focusing on desktop version, which may be freely obtained from USF IT by current USF affiliates (it costs a few hundred dollars on the outside)
  - Help page and more information here: http://guides.lib.usf.edu/endnote
Citation Management Tools

● Discussion:
  ○ How many of you are currently using a citation management tool or application?
  ○ Which one(s)?
  ○ What do you like?
  ○ What drives you crazy?
Part II: Substance

Substance and Style - 2018 Dissertation Forum
Substance: The Basics of What to Cite.

- Quoting → to repeat another source verbatim (word for word), using quotation marks.

- Paraphrasing → to use the idea(s) from another source but change the phrasing (all of it, not only a few words) into your own words.

- Summarizing → taking broad overviews from large passages (or even monographs) and condensing them in your own words.
Choosing the Right Sources

- Use all of the research databases that specialize in your subject
- Narrowing the field of options
- Make sure you do not miss the “big players” in the conversation
  - Google Scholar
  - Check reference pages
Joining the Scholarly Conversation

When interacting with your source material avoid

- Dismissive language about the findings of other scholars
- Regurgitation without interaction

Gerald Graff, Cathy Birkenstein *They Say / I Say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing*

- Great for beginners, but useful for all Academic writers
- Provides useful, adaptable templates
Adding Substance - YOU!

Finding Balance

- Too MUCH focus on the research done by others, your reader does not get to hear from you
- Too LITTLE focus on the research done by others, you leave out the foundation of the work you are presenting
- Avoid extra “space” between presenting of source, and adding YOU
- Balance! Acknowledge merit, and insert your own ideas
  - "While Will makes an excellent point that you can lose yourself by presenting the research of others, his point would benefit from considering the consequences of leaving out important, foundational work".
Substance

- What strategies have you found to help decide what to use in your dissertation?
- What struggles have presented themselves while making these decisions?
- Do you have any questions regarding your own dilemmas of what to include?
- What works for you that you think could help others?
Thanks for Your Time!

Questions?

Please feel free to contact us in the future with any questions, comments, or suggestions.