

Citation & Paraphrasing Preparation Quiz

Department/Program: **Social Sciences** · Project Dates: **Spring 2015-Present**
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Problem

Many students come into my History classes without the necessary skills to successfully write the Historical Research papers they are assigned. One particular skillset that is lacking is the ability to correctly cite sources within a paper.

Many students have not yet taken ENG 121, where they would learn the necessary skills, or have been out of school for so long that they either never learned or have forgotten how to properly cite sources. Another skill that is noticeably lacking is the inability to summarize or paraphrase information, resulting in students relying heavily on direct quotes to provide their evidence.

Plan

To facilitate their writing skills while retaining classroom time for History discourse, I developed a series of videos as part of my curriculum to teach or reinforce paraphrasing and citation skills to students that may not yet have taken ENG 121.

I utilized my skills as a filmmaker to create five videos with multiple camera angles, judicious editing, original music, and humorous yet informative scripts. By popular demand, my videos were subsequently made available to the entire History faculty. The videos have been well received by my students, with many of them showing them to their family and friends.



**View the videos on our
YouTube channel!**



Assessment Activity

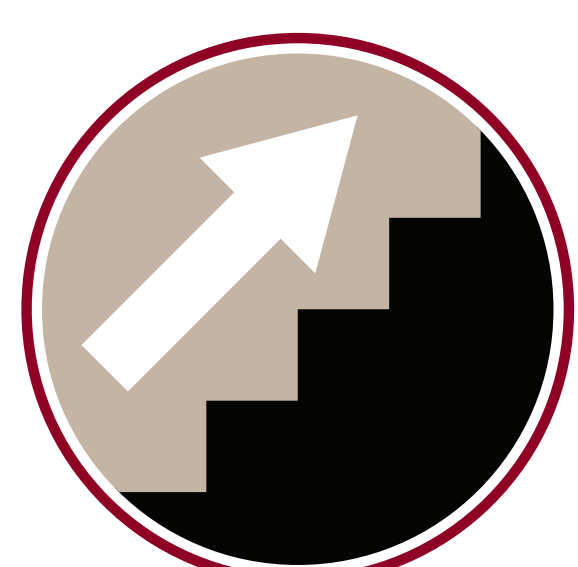
The videos are supplemented with online documentation and a Citation and Paraphrasing Preparation Quiz to reinforce students' skills. The quiz incorporates questions based on the five videos in the series and the provided documentation, which discuss why we cite our sources, how to insert footnotes or endnotes into a Microsoft Word document, and an introduction to formatting citations for Chicago Manual of Style, used in the discipline of History, as well as MLA Style, which the department allows non-History majors to use.

Sample documents for summarizing and paraphrasing are also included in the quiz. This online curriculum affords me more class time to teach History while also helping build writing skills that will serve students in the rest of their academic careers

Results and Data

Since Spring 2015, students routinely average between 70% and 75% on the quizzes for their first attempt. I allow them a second attempt, which gives them a chance to improve their score, but primarily is to reinforce the information by having them view the videos and information a second time.

While students' citation and paraphrasing skills are not at the level of an upper-division History course, they have become more cognizant of the fact that they need to cite their sources, and 95% of students attempt to properly cite their sources and improve their paraphrasing in the Historical Topic research papers. For those students that have not had ENG 121, this is a vast improvement over the papers I received before implementing the videos and quiz.



Closing the Loop & Next Steps

I continue to provide the videos and quiz to all sections of my classes every semester so that students may reinforce or develop those skills. Through Desire2Learn, students have access at any time throughout the semester to the online documentation, samples, and videos for continued reference purposes.