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How Not to Plagiarize

Content adapted from:

- Writing Support, The University of Toronto, www.writing.utoronto.ca

- Document Guidelines handout, ECE496 course, University of Toronto <https://internal.ece.toronto.edu/ece496.1213/pages/guides/DocumentGuidelines.pdf>

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- B.ASc (Hon) EE University of Toronto, 2011
 - Minor in Bioengineering
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Outline

- Purpose of writing
- Using external sources
 - Paraphrasing
 - Summarizing
 - Quoting
- Plagiarism
- Referencing
- Take home message

Purpose of writing

- Represent one's own ideas
- Purpose of writing is not to create a collage of copied material from different sources
- **Convey your message to the reader as efficiently as possible**
 - Define jargon, abbreviations
 - Use labeled, captioned figures, table titles
 - Avoid using long complex sentences
 - Avoid wordiness

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Using external sources

- Usually, a source's *ideas*, not the exact wording are important
 - Paraphrase/summarize
- In rare cases, you may want to preserve the original author's wording
 - Quoting
- In any case, always provide reference
- **Most scientific writing relies on summarizing**

Paraphrasing

- “To paraphrase means to **express someone else’s ideas in your own language**”
- Use paraphrasing when the same level of detail as in the original is required
- **Use your own words.** Change the actual sentence structure
- Strategy:
 - When reading, take notes in point form. Do not copy whole sentences.
 - When writing, convert the points from the notes into full sentences *in your own words*
 - Provide a reference

Example –Wrong Paraphrasing

- The cause of autism has also been a matter of dispute. Its incidence is about one in a thousand, and it occurs throughout the world, its features remarkably consistent even in extremely different cultures. It is often not recognized in the first year of life, but tends to become obvious in the second or third year.
- The cause of the condition autism has been disputed. It occurs in approximately one in a thousand children, and it exists in all parts of the world, its characteristics strikingly similar in vastly differing cultures. The condition is often not noticeable in the child's first year, yet it becomes more apparent as the child reaches the ages of two or three (Sacks 247-48) .

Legitimate paraphrasing

- The cause of autism has also been a matter of dispute. Its incidence is about one in a thousand, and it occurs throughout the world, its features remarkably consistent even in extremely different cultures. It is often not recognized in the first year of life, but tends to become obvious in the second or third year.
- In “An Anthropologist on Mars,” Sacks lists some of the known facts about autism. We know, for example, that the condition occurs in roughly one out of every thousand children. We also know that the characteristics of autism do not vary from one culture to the next. And we know that the condition is difficult to diagnose until the child has entered its second or third year of life. As Sacks points out, often a child who goes on to develop autism will still appear perfectly normal at the age of one (247).

Summarizing

- “To summarize means to distill only **the most essential points** of someone else’s work.”
- Use summarizing when you want to use only key points
- Extract **topic sentences**. The topic sentence is the centre around which the important point circulates.
- **Use your own words**

Example – Summary

The cause of autism has also been a matter of dispute. Its incidence is about one in a thousand, and it occurs throughout the world, its features remarkably consistent even in extremely different cultures. It is often not recognized in the first year of life, but tends to become obvious in the second or third year. Though Asperger regarded it as a biological defect of affective contact — innate, inborn, analogous to a physical or intellectual defect — Kanner tended to view it as a psychogenic disorder, a reflection of bad parenting, and most especially of a chillingly remote, often professional, “refrigerator mother.” At this time, autism was often regarded as “defensive” in nature, or confused with childhood schizophrenia. A whole generation of parents — mothers, particularly — were made to feel guilty for the autism of their children.

In “An Anthropologist on Mars,” Sacks notes that although there is little disagreement on the chief characteristics of autism, researchers have differed considerably on its causes. As he points out, Asperger saw the condition as an innate defect in the child’s ability to connect with the external world, whereas Kanner regarded it as a consequence of harmful childrearing practices (247-48).

Quotation

- Use quoting in the following cases:
 - The wording is elegant or memorable
 - Add credibility to your argument if the passage is from an authoritative figure or expert
 - You wish to analyze the actual passage
 - You wish to discuss / argue another author's ideas in detail
- If only the idea is important, but not the wording, use paraphrasing or summarizing
- Introduce the quote

Example – improper introduction

The ancient Greeks never saw a need to justify wars that were waged outside the walls of the city state. "Hence we must turn to Roman antiquity to find the first justification of war, together with the first notion that there are just and unjust wars" (Arendt 12). Yet the Roman conception of a just war differs sharply from more modern conceptions.

Example – Well-introduced

The ancient Greeks never saw a need to justify wars that were waged outside the walls of the city state. As Hannah Arendt **points out** in *On Revolution*, "we must turn to Roman antiquity to find the first justification of war, together with the first notion that there are just and unjust wars" (12). Yet the Roman conception of a just war differs sharply from more modern conceptions.

How to introduce quotations

- Instead of writing 'Author says...' everytime, there are different verbs:

argues	writes	points out	concludes	comments
suggests	insists	observes	counters	asserts
states	notes	claims	demonstrates	explains

- Other phrases:
 - In the words of X, ...
 - According to X, ...
 - In X's view, ...

Quotation overuse

- Can I copy-paste everything from multiple sources in quotation marks with proper citation?
 - This would keep you safe from plagiarism
 - What is your contribution to the writing?
 - “Such a collection of quotes does not lead to any original intellectual contribution and looks awkward”

Recap

- Paraphrase
 - Express someone else's ideas in your own words
- **Summarize**
 - **Extract key points; write them in your own words**
- Quotation
 - Use only when author's exact words are important
 - Appropriate introduction

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Plagiarism

"to represent as one's own any idea or expression of an idea or work of another"

Types of Plagiarism

- Literal plagiarism
 - Direct copy-paste of groups of words without properly quoting or citing the source
 - Illegitimate paraphrasing without citing a source
- Intelligent plagiarism
 - *Idea adoption* without citing the source
 - Legitimate paraphrasing
- **Both are plagiarism**
- **Always include citation and reference**

Effects of Plagiarism

- In coursework: up to expulsion from university
- In academia
 - Retraction (reputation at risk)
 - Prohibited Authors List (Blacklist)
 - Penalties

Prohibited Authors List

Author Name	Author Affiliation	Paper Title	Prohibited From	Start Date	End Date
[REDACTED]	Dept of Electronics and Communications Engineering, Osmania University, Hyderabad	"Swarm Intelligence Stability Based on Stochastic Diffusion Search"	All IEEE publications	5-Jun-2012	5-Jun-2015
[REDACTED]	Electrical Engineering Dept, Alexandria University, Alexandria, Egypt	"Harmonics in HVDC Links, Part I - Sources"	All IEEE publications	4-Oct-2012	4-Oct-2015
[REDACTED]	TM Research and Development, Lebuh Silikon, Malaysia	"1310/1550 nm Photonic Crystal Based on Multimode Interference Demultiplexer"	All IEEE publications	18-May-2010	18-May-2014
[REDACTED]	JNTUH, Hyderabad	"Page-Level Web Data Extraction from Template Pages using Extended FIVaTech"	All IEEE publications	9-Nov-2012	9-Nov-2017
[REDACTED]	RDVV, Jabalpur (M.P.) India	"Security Issues in Distributed Multihop WiMAX Networks"	All IEEE publications	17-Nov-2011	17-Nov-2016
[REDACTED]	Laxmi Devi Institute of Engineering and Technology, Alwar , India	"Design and Implementation of FMCW Radar Receiver in 65 nm CMOS Technology"	All IEEE publications	22-Jul-2012	22-Jul-2017
[REDACTED]	Computer Science and Engineering Discipline,	"An Approach to Recognize Handwritten Bengali Numerals for Postal Automation"	All IEEE publications	25-Apr-2011	25-Apr-2013

Recent incidents

- June 2011: University of Alberta Dean of Medical School resigned after he plagiarized part of a graduation speech ^[1]
- Sep 2012: University of Waterloo professor resigned from position as editor-in-chief of a journal after a student copied parts of another paper ^[2]
- Oct 2012: University of Toronto chair of physiology paper retracted (7-yr research) due to *self-plagiarism* ^[3]
- Dec 2012: University of Windsor Dean of Education suspended until June 2014 due to “an academic integrity breach involving plagiarism.” ^[4]

[1] National Post: <http://news.nationalpost.com/2011/06/17/university-of-alberta-medical-school-dean-resigns-after-plagiarizing-speech/>

[2] Imprint: <http://www.theimprint.ca/article/2024-waterloo-professor-and-grad-student-face>

[3] Toronto Star: <http://www.thestar.com/news/gta/article/1276794--university-of-toronto-professor-accused-of-self-plagiarism-in-seven-year-old-research-paper>

[4] The Windsor Star: <http://blogs.windsorstar.com/2012/12/10/dean-of-education-at-university-of-windsor-suspended-over-plagiarism/>

Review

Maternal adversity, glucocorticoids and programming of neuroendocrine function and behaviour

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Abstract

The fetus may be exposed to increased endogenous glucocorticoid or synthetic glucocorticoid in late gestation. Approximately 7% of pregnant women in Europe and North America are treated with synthetic glucocorticoid to promote lung maturation in fetuses at risk of preterm delivery. Very little is known about the mechanisms by which synthetic glucocorticoid or prenatal stress influence neurodevelopment in the human, or whether specific time windows of increased sensitivity exist. Glucocorticoids are essential for many aspects of normal brain development, but exposure of the fetal brain to excess glucocorticoid can have life-long effects on neuroendocrine function and behaviour. Both endogenous glucocorticoid and synthetic glucocorticoid exposure have a number of rapid effects in the fetal brain, including modification of neurotransmitter systems and transcriptional machinery. Such fetal exposure permanently alters hypothalamo-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) function in prepubertal and postpubertal offspring, in a sex-dependent manner. Prenatal glucocorticoid manipulation also leads to modification of behaviour, brain and organ morphology, as well as altered regulation of other endocrine systems. Permanent changes in endocrine function will impact on health, since elevated cumulative exposure to endogenous glucocorticoid is linked to the premature onset of pathologies associated with aging.
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Keywords: Prenatal stress; Glucocorticoids; Hypothalamo-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis; Programming; Hippocampus; Perinatal; Behaviour

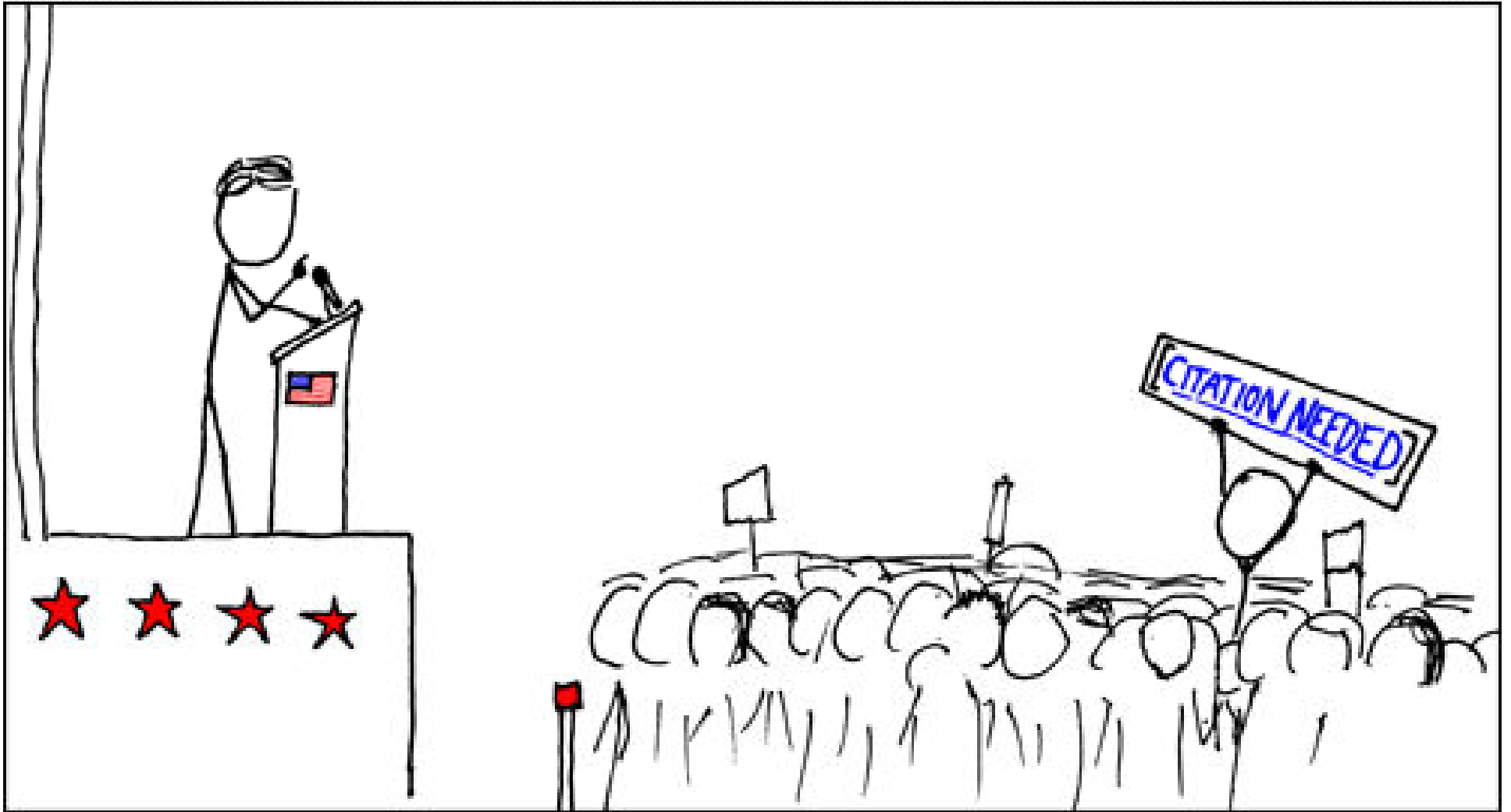
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Referencing

1. Internal citation in the body of the writing
 2. References section
- Do not make up a referencing system. Use standard reference systems
 - Numbered note:
 - IEEE (Engineering)
 - ICMJE (Medical)
 - Author-date: APA (social sciences)
 - Author-page (humanities)

1. Introduction

It is well-known that the interfacial tension (IFT) is an important physical property for governing the structure, dynamics and stability of multiphase systems in various scientific and industrial applications including lab-on-a-chip devices, emulsification, the production of pharmaceuticals and cosmetics, oil recovery, and so forth [1–4]. Classical methods for measuring IFT are the Wilhelmy plate and Du Noüy ring. These methods involve centimeter length scales (mL volumes) and are suitable for liquid/liquid or liquid/gas interfaces while offering convenience and accuracy. However, the macroscopic scale of the measurement can pose problems if the sample is available only in small amounts. Moreover, also a very clean environment is required to prevent exposure to contaminants, since the IFT can be very sensitive to this (e.g. [5–7]).

At the millimeter scale (μL volumes) sessile drop and pendant drop [8] methods have become common techniques. Also these

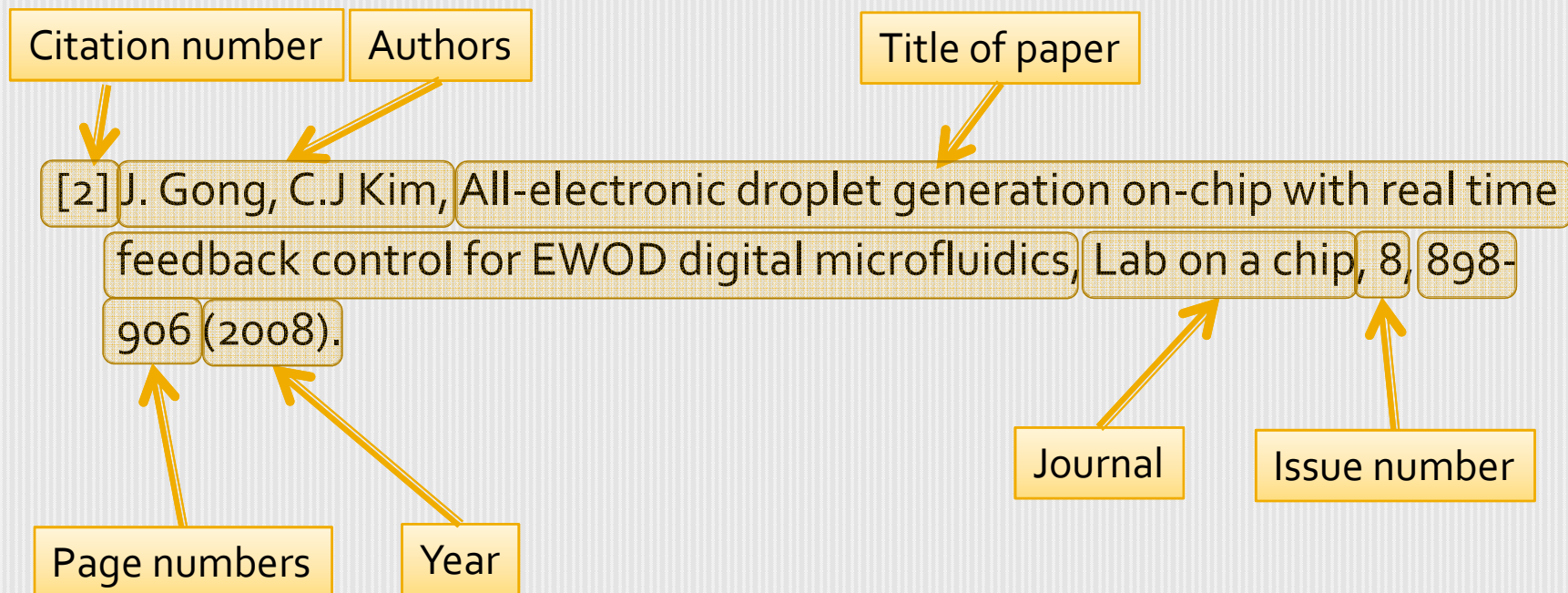
In the past decade, a growing interest has emerged in micrometer-scale measurements of IFTs. Lee et al. reported a technique in which a (tapered) micropipette is used [10,11]. Here the IFT is determined by measuring the radius of curvature of the interface at a given pipette pressure. This method allows for relatively small sample volumes, but the measurements need to be performed manually and precisely. One liquid with initially a liquid/air interface formed in a micropipette, needs to be exposed rapidly to a solution of another liquid in order to minimize contamination. Another way of measuring interfacial tensions at the microscale, is to make freely suspended drops (in an immiscible liquid), and study their deformation in spatially varying flow fields. The competition between flow stress and IFT then determines the extent of drop deformation. This well-known principle was recently implemented in microfluidics. In the device developed by Hudson et al. [12,13], flow gradients generated by microchannel constrictions were used to distort the droplet shape. This method has the advantages of high

References

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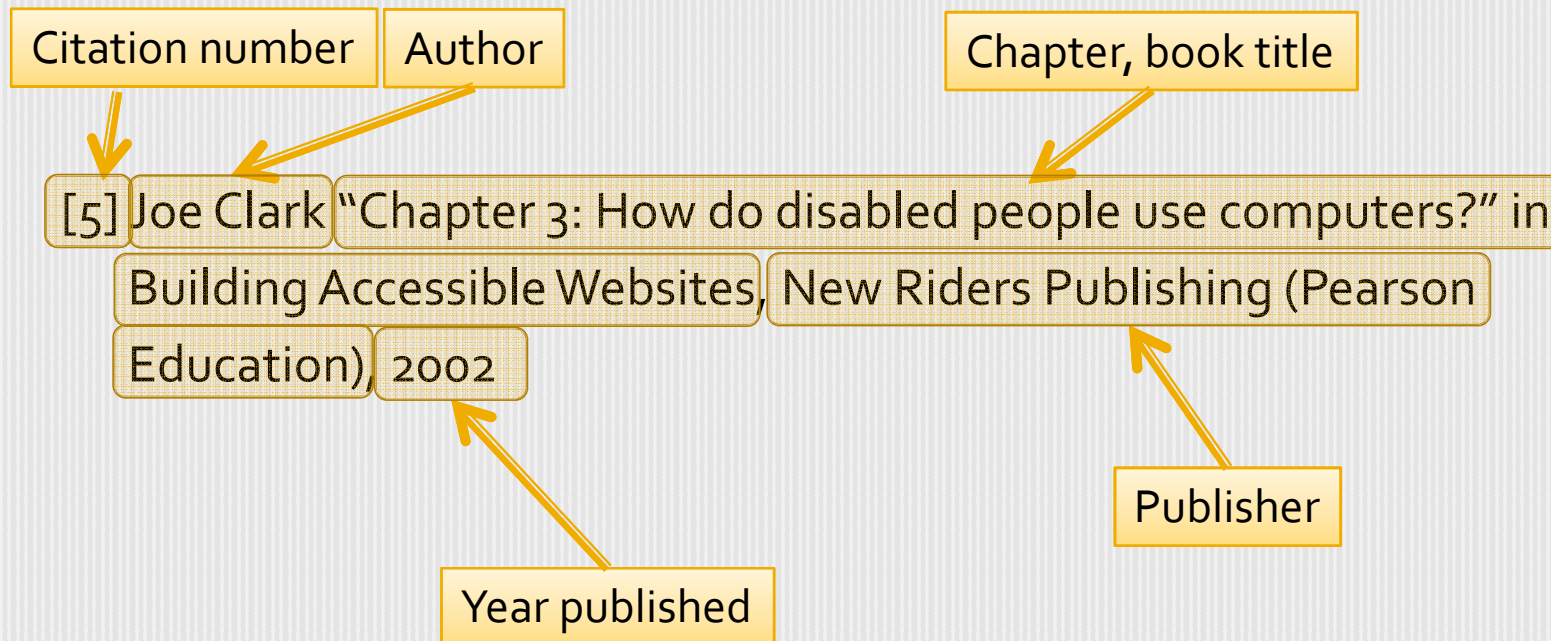
Example – paper

We are aware of two droplet sensing DMF methods reported in previous studies [1,2].



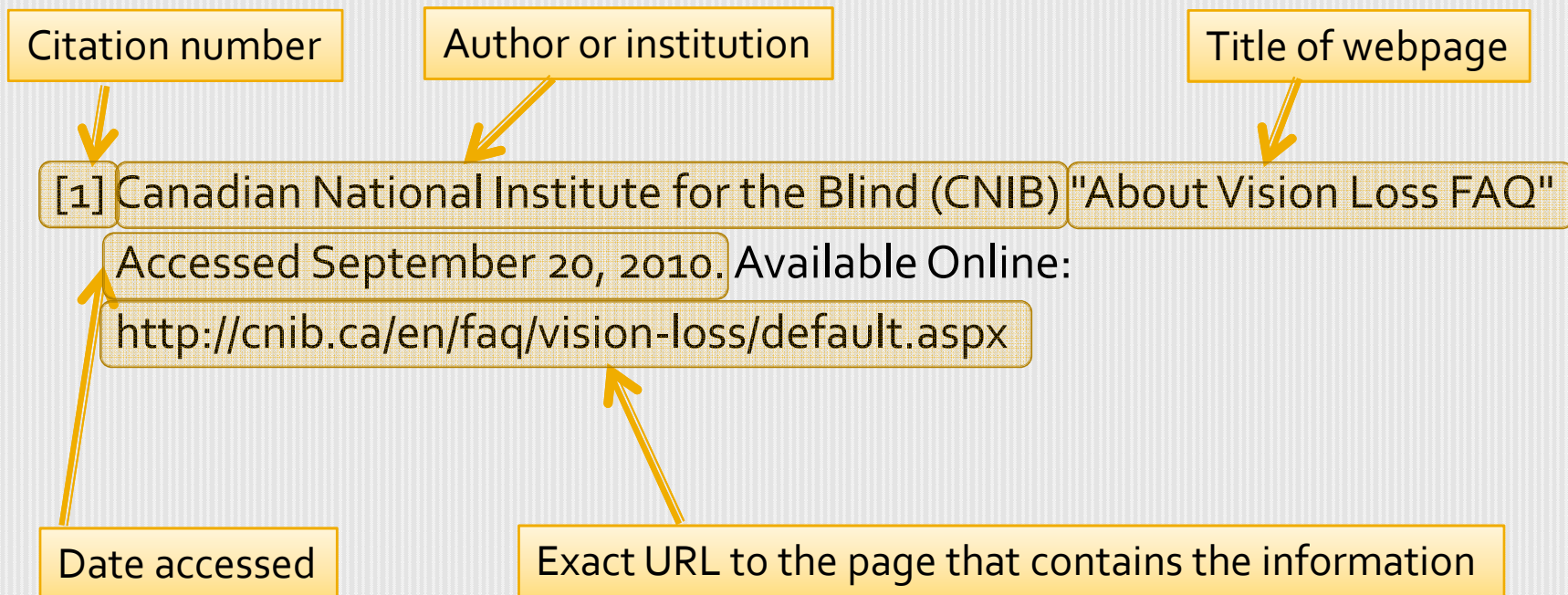
Example – book

Only about 10% of blind people can read Braille [5].



Example – webpage

According to the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB), there are close to one million blind and visually impaired Canadians [1].



When not to reference

- Some things that do not need a reference:
 - Common knowledge
 - Well known facts
 - Easily verifiable, undisputed facts
- Examples:
 - End of WWI, (rough) population of Egypt
 - Smoking is harmful to health

Citing Reviews

- A review analyses many important research papers, compares them and establishes trends.
- This sentence is from a 2010 review:

Finally, a third technique is to use a removable hydrophobic insulator, such that each successive experiment is implemented on a fresh device surface [8]

[8] Yang H, Luk VN, Abdelgawad M, Barbulovic-Nad I, Wheeler AR: A world-to-chip interface for digital microfluidics. *Anal Chem* 2009, 81:1061-1067.

Discuss the technique itself

- Reference is the 2009 paper

Mention the technique

- Reference is the 2010 review

WHERE CITATIONS COME FROM:

CITOGENESIS STEP #1:

THROUGH A CONVOLUTED PROCESS,
A USER'S BRAIN GENERATES FACTS.
THESE ARE TYPED INTO WIKIPEDIA.

THE "SCROLL LOCK" KEY WAS
DESIGNED BY FUTURE
ENERGY SECRETARY STEVEN
CHU IN A COLLEGE PROJECT.



A RUSHED WRITER CHECKS WIKIPEDIA
FOR A SUMMARY OF THEIR SUBJECT.

US ENERGY SECRETARY STEVEN CHU,
(NOBEL PRIZEWINNER AND CREATOR OF
THE UBIQUITOUS "SCROLL LOCK" KEY)
TESTIFIED BEFORE CONGRESS TODAY...



STEP #2

SURPRISED READERS CHECK WIKIPEDIA,
SEE THE CLAIM, AND FLAG IT FOR REVIEW.
A PASSING EDITOR FINDS THE
PIECE AND ADDS IT AS A CITATION.

GOOGLE IS YOUR
FRIEND, PEOPLE.

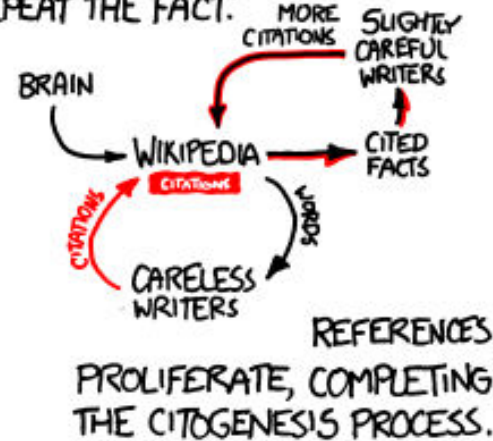
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STEP #3

STEP #4

NOW THAT OTHER WRITERS
HAVE A REAL SOURCE, THEY
REPEAT THE FACT.



About Wikipedia

- **Do not cite Wikipedia.** Ever.
- Wikipedia is an excellent resource to learn about a topic
- Find the citation from the Wikipedia article and use that as the reference
- If the fact / idea you are using from a Wikipedia article does not have a reference, then:
 - The fact is common knowledge and you don't need a reference (unlikely)
 - The article is incomplete. Look for another source

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Take home message

- Ignorance is not an excuse for plagiarism
- Writing is a very important skill to refine
- **Do not copy-paste anything anywhere, not in your notes, nor in a first draft**
 - Summarize, paraphrase
 - Quote with appropriate introduction
- References
 - Use a referencing standard
- **Do not cite Wikipedia**

Excellent resource: www.writing.utoronto.ca

Thanks