

Academic Writing Essentials All International Students Need to Know

Academic Learning Centre



University
of Manitoba

The University of Manitoba Traditional Territories Acknowledgement

The University of Manitoba campuses are located on original lands of Anishinaabeg, Ininiwak, Anisininewuk, Dakota Oyate and Dene, and on the National Homeland of the Red River Métis.

We respect the Treaties that were made on these territories, we acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and we dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of Reconciliation and collaboration.

Presentation Overview

- Four keys to Canadian academic writing
- Using sources (evidence)
- Three elements for crediting sources
- University supports

What are some common challenges to academic writing?

Common Writing Challenges

- Time management – writing and reading take longer
- Properly crediting information from other sources
- Paraphrasing – Putting ideas into your own words
- Understanding each instructor's expectations

Keys to Canadian Academic Writing

1. Writers present their ideas through arguments.

Writers express an informed opinion on a topic to convince others.



Keys to Canadian Academic Writing

2. Writers support their arguments with **evidence**.

Writers use information from journal articles, books, websites, etc.



Keys to Canadian Academic Writing

3. Writers **analyze** evidence, explaining how it supports their argument.

It is not sufficient to simply present evidence. Writers must explain why they have included it.



Keys to Canadian Academic Writing

4. Writers credit the work of others.

Writers' arguments are built on the work of others. They must cite and reference the work of others.



Keys to Canadian Academic Writing



Arguments



Evidence

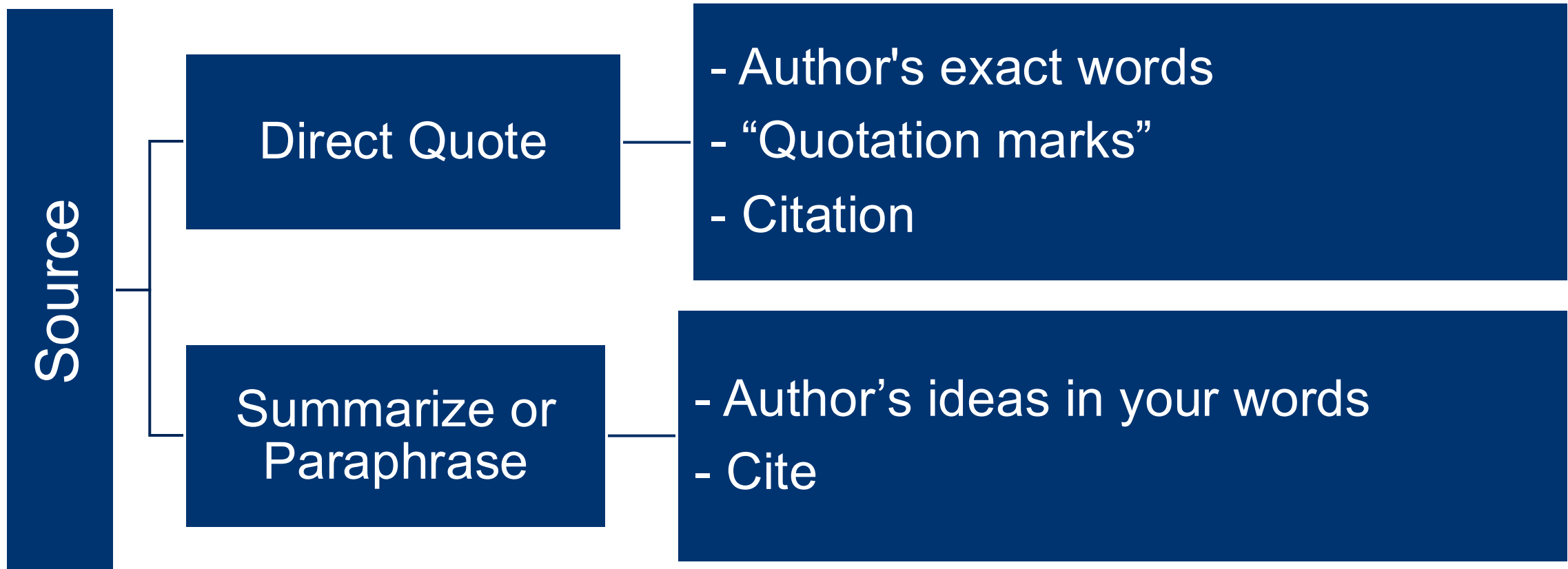


Analysis



Credit

Using Source Material in Your Writing



Direct Quote

Beckstead and Vinodrai (2003) concluded that this trend has emerged in Canada in a geographically uniform way and across all industries. More interesting still is the finding that “only 44% of professional occupations had a postsecondary degree in 1971 but 68% had such a degree in 1996” (Beckstead & Vinodrai, 2003, p.5).

Direct Quote

Beckstead and Vinodrai (2003) concluded that this trend has emerged in Canada in a geographically uniform way and across all industries. More interesting still is the finding that between 1971 and 1996 there was a 24% increase in the number of professions having a postsecondary degree (Beckstead & Vinodrai, 2003).

Three Elements for Crediting Sources

1. In the body of your paper: Provide a **citation** every time you include information from a source.

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Three Elements for Crediting Sources

2. At the end of your paper: Provide an entry in your references list for every source used in the body.

Beckstead, D. & Vinodrai, T. (2003). Dimensions of occupational changes in Canada's knowledge economy, 1971-1996 (Catalogue no. 11-622-M2003004). *Statistics Canada*.
<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/catalogue/11-622-M2003004>

Davidhizar, R. (1998). Improving your bedside manner. *The Journal of Practical Nursing*, 48(1), 10-14.

Three Elements for Crediting Sources

3. Throughout your paper: Use signal phrases to introduce evidence from a source.

Beckstead and Vinodrai (2003) **concluded that** this trend has emerged in Canada in a geographically uniform way and across all industries. **More interesting still is the finding that** “only 44% of professional occupations had a postsecondary degree in 1971 but 68% had such a degree in 1996” (Beckstead & Vinodrai, 2003, p.5).

Activity #2

The term global citizenship does not have one generally accepted definition. Rather, it is an umbrella term that is connected to several related concepts. Some writers emphasize that political activism is key to global citizenship, specifically political activism that is directed at addressing injustices and improving human rights. For example, Milley (2013) shows how Nelson Mandela was a global citizen because he was a leader in the fight against apartheid in South Africa and worked tirelessly to improve human rights in that country. Brigham (2013) looks at global citizenship in the workplace, explaining that global citizenship involves fair treatment of employees and equality at work. On the other hand, Tarrant et al. (2011) emphasize the importance of concern for the environment in their discussion of global citizenship. For these authors, global citizenship involves more than caring for others; it involves efforts to “reduce one’s ecological impact” (Tarrant et al., 2011, p. 404). Putting together these different uses of the term, it is clear that global citizenship is a mindset and way of being that can be applied in local, everyday contexts to national and international contexts.

Activity

Reading through the passage, identify the items below.

- Argument
- Evidence
- Analysis
- Credit
 - Citations
 - Signal phrases
 - Reference list

Activity

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Finding the Argument

The term global citizenship does not have one generally accepted definition. Rather, it is an umbrella term that is connected to several related concepts. Some writers emphasize that political activism is key to global citizenship, specifically political activism that is directed at addressing injustices and improving human rights. For example, Milley (2013) shows how Nelson Mandela was a global citizen because he was a leader in the fight against apartheid in South Africa and worked tirelessly to improve human rights in that country. Brigham (2013) looks at global citizenship in the workplace, explaining that global citizenship involves fair treatment of employees and equality at work. On the other hand, Tarrant et al. (2011) emphasize the importance of concern for the environment in their discussion of global citizenship. For these authors, global citizenship involves more than caring for others; it involves efforts to “reduce one’s ecological impact” (Tarrant et al., 2011, p. 404). Putting together these different uses of the term, it is clear that global citizenship is a mindset and way of being that can be applied in local, everyday contexts to national and international contexts.

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Finding the Credit

The term global citizenship does not have one generally accepted definition. Rather, it is an umbrella term that is connected to several related concepts. Some writers emphasize that political activism is key to global citizenship, specifically political activism that is directed at addressing injustices and improving human rights. For example, Milley (2013) shows how Nelson Mandela was a global citizen because he was a leader in the fight against apartheid in South Africa and worked tirelessly to improve human rights in that country. Brigham (2013) looks at global citizenship in the workplace, explaining that global citizenship involves fair treatment of employees and equality at work. On the other hand, Tarrant et al. (2011) emphasize the importance of concern for the environment in their discussion of global citizenship. For these authors, global citizenship involves more than caring for others; it involves efforts to “reduce one’s ecological impact” (Tarrant et al., 2011, p. 404). Putting together these different uses of the term, it is clear that global citizenship is a mindset and way of being that can be applied in local, everyday contexts to national and international contexts.

References

Brigham, M. (2013). Organizational justice and the workplace. *Global Citizen Digest*, 2(1), 20-21.

http://www.centennialcollege.ca/pdf/global_citizen_digest/Volume-2-Issue-1.pdf

Milley, R. (2013). Profile of a global citizen: Nelson Mandela, 1918-2013. *Global Citizen Digest*, 2(3), 26-27.

https://p.widencdn.net/gd1yfd/IGCE_GCDigest-2013v2i3

Tarrant, M. A., Stoner, L., Borrie, W. T., Kyle, G., Moore, R. L., & Moore, A. (2011). Educational travel and global citizenship. *Journal of Leisure Research*, 43(3), 403-426.

Activity #3

Practice Paraphrasing

Activity #3

Original text from source

“Because building on the work of others is one of the defining characteristics of academic writing, academic writers have developed standard systems that clearly identify where specific ideas came from, and that direct other interested persons to these same sources” (Taylor, 2003, p. 186).

Paraphrase #1

Because working with the text of others is one of the key characteristics of academic writing, academic writers have created standard systems that identify where key ideas come from, and that point other interested people to these same sources (Taylor, 2003).

Paraphrase #2

Incorporating others’ ideas into academic writing is part of what makes it different from other writing; for this reason, specific ways of citing sources have been established to help readers to know where ideas have come from and how to locate original texts (Taylor, 2003).

Paraphrase #3

Academic writing follows established rules and conventions for citing source material so that authors can acknowledge their intellectual debts to their peers and readers can further their research in the same field (Taylor, 2003, p. 186). Taylor considers this reliance on other scholars to be a hallmark of academic writing.

Questions?

Resources



University
of Manitoba

Academic Learning Centre

A photograph showing four students in a study environment. In the foreground, two young women are smiling and looking at each other. Behind them, two young men are seated at a table, looking down at their work. The background features large windows and some flags.

Academic Learning Centre services

We help you strengthen your writing, studying and research skills.

- Individual tutoring
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- Group study sessions (select courses)
- Tip sheets
- Videos
- English as an Additional Language resources

Make an appointment with a tutor

<https://umanitoba.ca/student-supports/academic-supports/academic-learning>



SHOW YOUR INTEGRITY

Academic Integrity

Resources to conduct academic work with integrity

There are a number of people and places on campus that will help you understand the rules and how they apply to academic work. If you have questions or are uncertain about what is expected of you in your courses, you have several options. <https://umanitoba.ca/student-supports/academic-supports/academic-integrity>

Campus Resources

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ISC Writing Essentials



Thank you
and best wishes as
you move forward
with your studies!

