

### ***Why do we cite? A note on strategies to avoid accidental plagiarism***

- **We cite to be part of a bigger conversation.**  
As students, your task is to become familiar with the work of experienced researchers. The best way to show your familiarity is to cite the appropriate researchers whenever you are using their work to make a point.
- **We cite so that our reader can verify the information.**  
A number without citation can easily look like it was pulled out of thin air. Unless you completed the research yourself, do not provide numbers without appropriate reference.
- **We cite to give credit where credit is due.**  
Ask yourself if you had this opinion, or knew this fact, before reading for this essay. If not, identifying the author who gave you this idea shows that you are taking part in the academic discussion.

### ***How to cite***

You are expected to provide a list of references at the end of your essay. The standard in economics is to use the author-date format for in-text citation (footnotes are also acceptable but pick one, either in-text or footnotes), and then provide the full reference in the reference section at the end.

The following example is from The Chicago Manual of Style Online

([http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/16/ch15/ch15\\_sec009.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/16/ch15/ch15_sec009.html), you can register for a free 30-days trial or consult a hard copy of the manual in the reference section of Robarts library, on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor)

Reference: Weinstein, Joshua I. 2009. "The Market in Plato's Republic." *Classical Philology* 104:439–58.

In-text (or footnote): (Weinstein 2009, 440)

### ***How to take notes that do not result in accidental plagiarism.***

Create a section in your notes for each article.

Do NOT copy the words of the article; instead, re-write the information in your own words.

For each note you take, write down which page of the article this came from. You need to provide citation even if you are paraphrasing; writing down the page number next to each note will save you time going through the article again to find where the citation came from.

Some notes will be your own thoughts. Identify those clearly as well to save you time later, but ask yourself if any part of it came to you from reading the article; you might still be paraphrasing.

If you MUST copy the words of the article in a direct quote (because the author just said it so well...), you will need to announce the quote, put it between quote marks, and provide the reference. This should be used extremely sparingly in your essay, and it is the most common source of red flags on Turnitin. Accordingly, if you are writing a note using the author's exact words, be sure to put it in quotes in your notes, and very clearly indicate to yourself that this is a direct quote.