**University of Djelfa Module: Research Methodology**

**Master 01 English Students Lecturer: Mr. Bouchemal Ahmed**

**Lecture: Citation**

**1-** why cite?

There are three reasons to cite the materials you use:

To give credit to others’ work and ideas, whether you agree with

them or not. When you use their words, you must give them credit

by using both quotation marks and citations.

To show readers the materials on which you base your analysis,

your narrative, or your conclusions.

To guide readers to the materials you have used so they can examine

it for themselves. Their interest might be to confirm your work,

to challenge it, or simply to explore it further.

Taken together, these citations fully disclose your sources. That’s important for academic integrity in several ways.

First, good citations parcel out credit. Some belongs to you for the original work you did; you need to take full responsibility for it. Some belongs to others for their words, ideas, data, drawings, or other work. You need to acknowledge it, openly and explicitly.

Second, if you relied on others’ work in order to tell your story, explain your topic, or document your conclusions, you need to say exactly what you used. Take a simple paper about World War I. No one writing today learned about it firsthand.Whatwe know,we learned by reading books and articles, by examining original documents and news reports, by listening to oral histories, by reviewing data compiled by military historians, and perhaps by viewing photographs or movies.When we write about the war, then, we should say how we acquired our information. The only exception is “commonly known information,” something that everyone in the field clearly understands and that does not require any substantiation. There’s no need for a footnote to prove Woodrow Wilson was actually president of the United States. But if you referred to his speech declaring war, you would need a proper citation. If you used his words, you’d need quotation marks, too.

Third, your readers may want to pursue a particular issue you cover. Citations should lead them to the right sources, whether those are books, interviews, archival documents,Web sites, poems, or paintings. That guidance serves several purposes. Skeptical readersmay doubt the basis for your work or your conclusions. Others may simply want to double-check them or do more research on the topic. Your citations should point the way.

What citations should not do is prance about, showing off your knowledge without adding to the reader’s. That’s just bragging.

Beyond this question of style (and good manners), there is the basic issue of honesty. Citations should never mislead your readers. There are lots of ways to mislead or misdirect your readers; accurate citations avoid them. For example, they should not imply you read books or articles when you really didn’t. They should not imply you spent days in the archives deciphering original documents when you actually read them in an edited book or, worse, when you “borrowed” the citation from a scholar who did study the originals. Of course, it’s fine to cite that author or an edited collection. That’s accurate. It’s fine to burrow into the archives and read the original yourself. It’s dishonest, though, to write citations that only

pretend you did.

Good citations should reveal your sources, not conceal them. They should honestly showthe research you conducted. That means they should give credit where credit is due, disclose the materials on which you base yourwork, and guide readers to that material so they can explore it further. Citations like these accurately reflect your work and that of others. They show the ground on which you stand.

**The Basics of Citation:**

Acknowledging your sources is crucial to doing honest academic work. That means citing them properly, using one of several styles. The one you choose depends on your field, your professor’s advice if you are a student, and your own preferences.

There are three major citation styles:

\_ Chicago (or Turabian), used in many fields

\_ MLA, used in the humanities

\_ APA, used in social sciences, education, engineering, and business