

# American Author Crediting Your Sources

- Exercise--Cite or not?
- Quoting a quotation in an article
- Sample body paragraph

# Acknowledging Your Sources

- By conservative standards, you should cite a source for all facts and evidence in your essay that you did not know before you started your research.
- But so as not to reveal your lack of knowledge, you can insert facts considered common knowledge without documentation.
- If you know lesser known or unbelievable details you may want to document that information to lend credibility to your research.

# Exercise

**Which of these paraphrased statements require  
parenthetical documentation?**

1. The Italian liner *Andrea Doria* sank on July 26, 1956.
2. The captain of the *Stockholm* was exonerated of all blame.
3. Baldwin wrote about the pain of being the child of a single mother and the problems he had with his fanatical stepfather.
4. Baldwin loved America even though America did not return that love.
5. Baldwin's collections of essays were sometimes better sellers than his novels.
6. *Go Tell It on the Mountain* tells the story of three generations of an American black family.

# Answers

1. **No.** The Italian liner *Andrea Doria* sank on July 26, 1956.
2. **Yes.** The captain of the *Stockholm* was exonerated of all blame (Smith 18).
3. **Yes.** Baldwin wrote about the pain of being the child of a single mother and the problems he had with his fanatical stepfather (Harris 2221).
4. **Yes.** Baldwin loved America even though America did not return that love (Harris 2221).
5. **Yes.** Baldwin is known for his essays, which “were sometimes better sellers than his novels” (Harris 2221).
6. **No.** *Go Tell It on the Mountain* tells the story of three generations of an American black family.

# Quoting a quotation

This is a sentence from an article by Arnold:

Denis Donoghue, the author of *The Achievement of Cormac McCarthy* (1988), describes the characters in the first novels as "recently arrived primates, each possessing a spinal column but little or no capacity of mind or consciousness."

Your paper:

According to Denis Donoghue, McCarthy's early characters were mere "primates, each possessing a spinal column but little or no capacity of mind or consciousness'" (qtd. in Arnold 1).

# Example #2

- “According to Hassler’s editor of twenty five years, Clare Ferraro, ‘Jon always had a twinkle in his eye’” (qtd. in Williams 2).

- The works cited page would look like this:

Williams, Susan. “Hassler’s Funeral

Well-Attended.” *Star Tribune* 2 June

2001: 3A.

Topic Sent.

Novel Support #1

Novel Support #2

Secondary Support

Alcott's belief in the work ethic is evident in the frequent manual labor of her characters. In *Little Women*, the March's father has to go to war, and his wife and four daughters are left behind to fend for themselves. Marmee, the mother, is not able to earn enough money for the whole family. The two oldest girls, Jo and Meg, realize this and "begged to be allowed to do something toward their own support" (34). Their mother consented and "both fell to work with hardy good will" (35). Jo and Meg worked hard at their respective jobs of being a governess and a companion. In *Little Men*, Alcott uses Mother Bhaer to teach the usefulness of manual labor. Each of Mother Bhaer's boarding students is assigned a plot of land which he will use to grow a crop of his choice. At harvest their work pays off as it is "gathered with much rejoicing" (267). Alcott herself knew about manual labor and was forced to help earn money for her "financially strapped family" ("Louisa" 2).

# Review

- Any paraphrased material that is not considered common knowledge must be cited.
- “Cited” means the author and page number are listed in the essay and linked to the bibliographical information on the Works Cited page.
- When you include quoted material from an article by another author, introduce the quoted author, use double and single quotation marks and put (qtd. in Larson 22) in the essay. The article or book by Larson will be found in the Works Cited.
- In each paragraph, include at least two different stories (primary sources) and one secondary source.