

## When Documentation is Not Needed

Documentation is required for any work that you quote from or paraphrase. Whether that reference is to a specific place in the source (a page, a chapter) or to the source as a whole, you would need to cite it. However, documentation is not required for every type of borrowed material (101).

NO documentation is needed for...

### **1. Common Knowledge**

Common knowledge includes information widely available in reference works such as

- Biographical facts about prominent persons
- Dates and circumstances of major historical events

However, when the facts are in dispute, when our reader may want more information on the topic, or you are not sure if it's considered common knowledge, cite the source.

Ex. The United States entered WWII after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Ex. The state bird of Illinois is the cardinal.

Ex. Springfield is the capital of Illinois.

### **2. Passing Mentions**

No documentation is required when you mention a work or author in passing

Ex. My favorite book is *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Ex. The Fray's best album is *Scars and Stories*.

You haven't quoted or paraphrased the work, referred to any aspect of it specifically, or used it to advance an idea. Since you have simply stated that the book exists and given an opinion about it, no source citation is needed

### **3. Allusions**

When you are making an allusion (making an indirect or partial reference to a well-known passage), you usually do not need to cite a source

Ex. The Force was with our team's goalie when she deflected the ball.

Ex. Junior year of high school may not have been the best of times, but it wasn't the worst either.

Ex. The female protagonist's "to be or not to be" moment came when she contemplated the difficulty of the journey ahead.