

# Referencing

A reference is a way of indicating to the reader, in an orderly form, where information has been obtained. A reference provides all the information needed to find the source material. References must be cited because they acknowledge the sources used, and enable the reader to consult the work and verify the data that has been presented.

References must be given whenever someone else's work is quoted or summarized. References can come from many different sources, including books, magazines, journals, newspapers, emails, internet sites and interviews.

There are a number of different styles available for use when writing research papers; most are appropriate in some academic disciplines but not others. The supervisor or school librarian should help the student decide on a style for the particular subject of the essay. It is important to remember that whatever style is chosen, it must be applied consistently and in line with the IB's minimum requirements. When choosing the style, the student needs to have a clear understanding of how it is to be used before embarking on the research task. The style should be applied in both the final draft of the essay and in the initial research stages of taking notes. This is good practice, not only for producing a high-quality final product, but also for reducing the opportunities and temptation to plagiarize.

The IB's minimum requirements include:

- name of author
- date of publication
- title of source
- page numbers (print sources only)
- date of access (electronic sources only)
- URL.

Any references to interviews should state the name of the interviewer, the name of the interviewee, the date and the place of the interview.

For more detailed information on styles for citations and referencing please refer to the IB document [\*Effective citing and referencing\*](#).