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# THE SPEAKING CENTER

## Oral Citation Guide

*(Adapted from University of Mississippi, 2022)*

When delivering your speech, audiences will not have your bibliography in front of them. Citing your sources out loud will build your credibility and ensure you are being ethical. This guide presents commonly agreed-upon standards; however, there is no one way to cite a source out loud. Also, consider that oral citations need to be comprehended by listeners. Balance citation content with conversational phrasing. You will likely need to take some pauses between citation elements in delivery.

### What goes into an oral citation?

Oral citations should demonstrate the reliability of your information. As you cite, convey the types of sources you are using to demonstrate the breadth and depth of your research.

1. **The Author.** Whether the author is a person or an organization. If your audience is not familiar with the author, then establish the source's credibility.

*Example oral book citation with name and credibility:* "Chris Anderson, the curator for TED, wrote TED Talks in 2017, which is the official guide to public speaking on the TED stage. In the book, Anderson says the idea you are conveying is the most important aspect of a talk."

2. **The Title.** Where did you find the information? For periodicals, the source is the title of the journal, newspaper, or magazine. If you have used multiple articles from the same source, you may also want to cite both the source and article title.

*Example oral periodical citation:* "A Wallstreet Journal article, updated July 14, 2022, reported Hilcorp, Exxon, and Conoco are the biggest emitters of methane gases—and that environmentalists are concerned because methane traps approximately 85% more planet-warming heat than carbon dioxide."

*Example oral periodical citation with both source & article titles: "The Wall Street Journal article—Hilcorp, Exxon and Conoco Top Greenhouse Gas Emitters, Environmental Groups Say— explains the three companies have the highest methane emissions based on government data. The article goes on to report methane produces roughly 85% more planet-warming heat than carbon dioxide."*

- 3. The Date.** How recent or historical is the information? Keep in mind the recency of information is critical when conveying research (unless you are giving historical perspective).

*Example oral data citation: "Data.gov's Consumer Price Index from June 24, 2022, showed a 10% increase in food costs from May last year to May this year."*