Hello and welcome to this quick video on citation in practice. We all know that citation involves two components: the in-text citation and the full reference. But what do these look like in practice? In this video, we'll give you a crash course in citation and help you better understand how to incorporate quotes into your work and credit their authors in your reference list.

Different disciplines use different citation styles, including: MLA, used mainly in the humanities; APA, which is used mainly in the social sciences; and Chicago, which is the preferred citation style for history scholars.

While citation styles may differ slightly, they all require the same basic information. This includes author, year of publication, title, and publisher.

Depending on the type of resource, you may also need details like page number, volume and issue number, and DOI or URL. This information is crucial for helping your readers evaluate whether your source is reliable and how to locate it.

These examples in APA both contain the author, year, title, and publisher. We can tell the source on the bottom is a journal article because it also contains volume, issue, and page numbers.

Sometimes your assignment requires resource types beyond books and journal articles, such as music, government information, films, or other online resources. All these sources still need to be cited and the basic rules of citation apply. Your reader needs to know who authored the source, when it was created, and where they can find it.

We've covered the reference list, but what does your citation look like when you're actually writing your assignment? For in-text citations, the idea is to demonstrate that you understand how the ideas in your resources support your claims. You also need to be clear about who wrote the source and when.

In-text citations require three elements: author, year, and page number. But how you incorporate these elements depends on your personal writing style.

Some people like to use a signal phrases as a lead-in to their quote. For example, this writer has already given us the name and year before she adds her direct quote. The quote itself is followed by the page number that it appears on.

Another way of embedding your in-text citation is by putting the quote directly into your own sentence. In this case, the author, year, and page number are all listed in brackets at the end of the quote.

One of the trickiest ways of citing is the paraphrase. Paraphrasing can be difficult since it requires more than just swapping out a few key words in the quote. Paraphrasing requires you to explain the main idea using your own words. Think carefully about the main idea the author is trying to convey, then explain it to your reader.

Take this example: the text on the left is the original and the text on the right is the paraphrase. In the original quote, the author explains some reasons why students tend to overcite. Note how the author of the paraphrase keeps the original idea but explains it using her own words. See the difference? When attributing your paraphrase, the same rules of citation still apply. Make sure to include the author, year, and page number of the text that you're summarizing.

If you're still feeling unsure, there are tons of useful resources available to help you out. Our citation guide and Chat With a Librarian service are local resources available to you through York University Libraries. There are also some very valuable sources from outside York Libraries that you may wish to consult, including Purdue's Online Writing Lab or the APA Style blog.

Thanks for watching!