

Citing sources orally

A common problem among public speakers is the fear of plagiarism. An easy way to avoid being accused of plagiarism is to cite your sources orally. Your audience does not expect you to come up with all of the information in your speech on your own, but they do expect you to tell them where you got the information. Citing your sources will not only help you avoid a plagiarism charge, it will also boost your credibility and allow your audience the chance to find your sources later in case they want to look more into your topic.

An easy way to think about citing your sources in your speech is to remember how you cite sources when writing a paper. If there is any information that you did not come up with from your own head, a good rule of thumb is to cite it. Include as much information as possible for your audience when citing. This means, ideally, you will provide the author, source, and date.

Don't just rattle off the citation after the information is given. A good public speaker guides the audience through the information. Provide an introduction such as "Burke provides an analysis in his book, *A Rhetoric of Motives*, published in 1969, Milton's Samson pulling form the rhetoric of the Bible."

By introducing your sources, your audience knows before you give the information that you are pulling it from somewhere else. When citing a website, include the author of the page, the name of the webpage as well as the name of the source, and the date it was last updated or accessed by you.

"According to Adam Hetrick writing for Playbill.com on the webpage, 'Following Record-Breaking Tony Win, Audra McDonald and *Lady Day* Extend

Broadway Run,' last updated on June 11, 2014, Audra McDonald has won six Tony awards, breaking the record of any actor with the most Tony awards and the first woman to win a Tony in all four acting categories."

If no author is given, provide the sponsoring organization.

"According to the CDC on their webpage, "ADHD research", accessed June 12, 2014, Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder is a public health problem which affects both children and adults."

Providing the most information from a source will help you avoid plagiarism charges, establish your credibility as a speaker, and allow your audience members to go back and find the information so that they may gain more knowledge as well.

For more questions regarding citing sources orally, visit the SpeakEasy in Bristol Hall room 20, or attend a workshop on oral citations.