
Citing Sources in Speeches

Your listeners can't simply flip to a reference list to determine what sources you are using during a speech. Orally providing details of your sources shows your work and builds your credibility.

General Guidelines

- It's better to over-cite than under-cite. When in doubt, cite it!
- Give the listener sufficient information to determine the source is appropriate. To help listeners, provide source information before giving details.
- Consider contextualizing why an author is being cited.
- Clearly indicate when you are using a direct quote. Pauses before and after the quote help delineate it from your own words.
- Have full citation information available in case anyone asks.
- Images on a Powerpoint or other visual aid can include an indication of the source next to the picture.
- When in doubt, check with your professor about their requirements.

Common Types of Sources

	Details	Sounds Like
Book	Author, title, date if relevant	As early as his 1964 book titled <i>Understanding Media</i> , Marshall McLuhan argued...
News source	Source title, date	An October 28, 2016 article on CNN.com...
Scholarly journal article	Journal title, date, author	An article by Ann Owen and Anne Phillips in the December 2015 issue of the <i>Journal of Happiness</i> studies reports...
Website	Organization's name, specific page, date (date posted if available; otherwise, date accessed)	According to the Hamilton College website's Admissions page, updated in October 2016...

Express Thyself!