

What do we mean by citations?

This video sets out the core concepts of citing and referencing a bibliography in an essay.

Do you know what citations are and why they are important?

Laura has used several books and articles in writing her essay on Kant and the French Revolution. She needs to show where the ideas in her essay have come from. This is a citation: stating where things come from (e.g. an idea, a literal sentence or an image) that we use in our work and come from another person.

A citation is the short form reference of a document used in our work. The full description will be provided in a final reference bibliography. The reference **contains all the information enabling us to identify the cited document**.

It is important for Laura to cite the documents used in her work for several reasons:

- To acknowledge the work of other authors
- To provide credibility for her work and demonstrate that it has been documented
- To highlight which ideas come from others: if you do not cite them, you are plagiarising
- To enable any reader to look up further information by checking the bibliography used.

How do you know whether you use a citation? Ask yourself the following question:

Does this information come from somebody else? If the answer is yes, then cite the source!