Guidance on Sources and Citations   **City 365: Urban Culture and Society**   Spring 2016, Bryn Mawr College

- **Guidance on sources:**
  - Make sure you think critically about the legitimacy of your sources. Is it peer-reviewed research, or is it sponsored by an entity that has a particular interest or bias related to the issue? Opinion pieces, news articles, empirical research, and "state of the practice/best practices" reports are all very different kinds of sources, and you should not give each of their claims the same weight.
  - If you are using non-peer-reviewed sources, it is up to you to "vet" their quality. How well respected is the author in her field? Where does the organization get its funding? Does the author or sponsoring organization have a particular bias?
  - Make sure you think critically about what your sources claim. What are the strengths and weaknesses of their research methods and arguments?
  - It's never too late to make friends with the reference librarian.

- **Guidance on referencing and citations:**
  - If you keep the overall purpose and content needed for good referencing, it will help keep you from getting lost in the details.
  - *Purpose*: Why do we cite and credit sources?
    - Intellectual property: Not referencing the sources of ideas and data is a form of theft, even if it is unintentional.
    - Progress of Knowledge: We don't have replicable experiments in social science; instead, readers need to be able to evaluate the quality of our sources and data as well as our interpretations.
    - Note that the requirement for intellectual honesty is an Honor Code issue.
  - *Content*: The links below provide details about content, but **all references, no matter the format or type of media, are looking for these key pieces of information: Author, Date, Title, Publisher**.
  - *Format*: Most social sciences use the American Psychological Association (APA) format:
    - For APA: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/
      - *Detailed information about APA citation style rules*: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/08/
  - *SOURCE TYPES*
  - *Essays by separate authors within a book (like the selections in the CITY READER)*: See "Article or Chapter in an Edited Book" here: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/08/
  - *Images*: in general, you are looking for an author/image producer, date, title or your own brief description, and full weblink if electronic. See details on citing websites and images here:
    - http://www.umuc.edu/library/libhow/apa_examples.cfm#websites.
  - *Page Numbers:* If you are crediting a quote, image, or very specific idea, you must include a page number. If you are crediting the overall general ideas or contribution of a work, you reference the full work without page numbers.
    - For electronic sources without page numbers, see "Sources without Page Numbers" on this page: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/03/
  - *Secondary sources* (a quote or idea from another source discussed in the source you are reading, ie, you don't read the original source for the quote or idea): See "Work Discussed in a Secondary Source" here: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/09/ and "Citing Indirect Sources" here: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/03/
  - *Organization as author or no author*: see "Organization as Author" and "Unknown Author" here: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/06/
  - *Websites and Other Electronic Sources (including Online Scholarly Journal Articles)*: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/10/   Please provide FULL WEBLINK
  - *Google Maps*: include cartographer (Google Maps), copyright date, map title, map type, and url: http://citesource.trincoll.edu/apa/apagooglemap.pdf