

## Citing and Documenting Source Material Used in an Essay

- ▶ When your essay includes a references page, your in-text documentation should **not** include the entire source information.
- ▶ Give in-text attribution that does two things:
  1. Establishes that your essay is using information from a source, not your own ideas.
  2. Establishes “ethos” (trustworthiness) for your source—that the source and your information can be trusted to be accurate and truthful.

### ▶ Examples of source integration (“sandwich”) and parenthetical documentation:

Utah’s geography is partly responsible for its poor air quality, and there is no fixing this. However, what we *are* responsible for is the dirty air that the Wasatch Mountains trap within the Salt Lake Valley. Becky Edwards, Chair of Utah’s House Economic Development Committee (2015), proposed a House bill that would “give essential protections to public health” beyond the minimum of federal air quality regulations. Edwards’s bill deserves a careful examination.

- On the references page:

Edwards, B. (2015, August 27). Fixing Utah’s air. [Editorial]. *The Salt Lake Tribune*. Retrieved from <http://www.sltrib.com/opinion>

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Few rivers in America remain wild and free from human interference. According to the National Park Service (2013), the Colorado River—emblematic of the rough and tumble Western river—is one of the most diverted and controlled rivers in the nation (“A tale”). How ironic it is, then, that the wild rapids river runners wrestle their rafts through in the basement of the Grand Canyon are a result of the damming and taming of the Colorado.

- On the references page:

A tale of two rivers. (2013, Fall). *National Parks*, 186(3), 20. Retrieved from [http://www.nps.gov\\_mag](http://www.nps.gov_mag)

Is there anyone alive today who does not know that smoking cigarettes causes cancer? Surely, teens in the United States are well aware of the dangers of smoking tobacco. Yet, a 2012 government survey of high school students showed that the number of teens who smoke tobacco is rising, with almost 17% self-reporting as smoking "regularly" (U.S. Centers). If the pink ribbons, the stream of cancer deaths, and mass advertising do not get teens to drop the habit, what will?

- On the references page:

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2014). *National Youth Tobacco Survey*. Retrieved from [https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data\\_statistics/surveys/nyts/index.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/surveys/nyts/index.htm)

► **When you cite a source quoted within another source:**

If, as Henry David Thoreau says, "the mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation," could the same plight also apply to the mass of marriages? Psychologist Terri Orbuch indicated other possibilities. She stated that long-term studies show that couples can follow a few "science-based steps" to create a successful marriage (as cited in Tartakovsky, 2015). Orbuch advises couples to follow five statistically proven common-sense relationship tips to improve their marriage happiness quotient.

- On the references page:

Tartakovsky, M. (2015, August 26). 5 steps to a successful marriage. *Psych Central*. Retrieved from <https://psychcentral.com/lib/5-steps-to-a-successful-marriage/>

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Thousands of seemingly average teens have turned their backs on their middle-class lives in the West to join ISIS in Syria, leaving behind a wake of bewildered friends and family. Richard Barrett explained in a 2014 report from The Soufan Group (a private anti-terrorism organization) that ISIS markets itself as offering "camaraderie . . . purposeful activity . . . with a sense of understated heroism" (as cited in Haq). For certain teens at risk, this psychological appeal has been tempting enough to uproot their lives and join ISIS.

- On the references page:

Haq, H. (2014, October 22). ISIS excels at recruiting american teens: Here are four reasons why. *The Christian Science Monitor*. Retrieved from <https://www.csmonitor.com/USA/USA-Update/2014/1022/ISIS-excels-at-recruiting-American-teens-Here-are-four-reasons-why>