

Outline and Bibliography

Bibliography:

- Minimum of 10 **citable** references
- You **MUST** use the University Library databases to research the paper. **A paper researched entirely on Google will receive an F.**

What makes a source citable?

- **It should be credible.** That means it is generally regarded as providing accurate material.
 - Primary research articles in scholarly journals. This is the original research report.
 - Review articles in scholarly journals. This means articles that summarize the primary research.
 - Government documents. Older documents are available in paper form, and newer documents are all online. These would be reports and papers from the USGS, state geologic surveys, and other government agencies.
 - Scholarly books. Some scholarly books have only one author, and are usually called monographs. Some are edited books, where each chapter is a separate paper with a separate author. Like research articles, these have dry titles. They are usually put out by professional societies or by university presses.
- **What is NOT citable:**
 - Wikis and encyclopedias.
 - General interest magazines such as Scientific American, Discover, Earth, Science News, etc. These are useful as background but may not be cited.
 - General interest books. These have sexier names and are usually much shorter than scholarly books, and have short reference lists. They often talk about the scientists as well as the research. They are often put out by general presses rather than university presses. Example: Night Comes to the Cretaceous.
 - Any web sites that are not a government site or an open access scholarly journal such as PLOS.
 - News articles in scholarly publications. Some journals such as Nature or Science have news sections at the front. These articles are not written by scientists, but by science writers. They can sometimes be hard to recognize. Typically, there is no home institution listed by the author's name, and the author is often listed at the end of the article. If there is a reference list, it is usually very short. The titles are more like clickbait and less like the dry titles of research articles. You can always check the table of contents for that issue of the journal to see what section the article appeared in.

- **How do you recognize citable sources?**
 - They are not publications that you see at newsstands or in dentist's offices.
 - The title of the article is dry and informative, not cute or sexy.
 - The article has a reference list.
 - The article usually has an abstract.
 - Graphics are labeled as Figures or Tables.
 - The home institution of the author(s) is identified in the byline.

Outline:

- **Must be in complete sentences.**
- Must have this structure:
 - Main point #1 (Give it a name, not "Main Point")
 - Argument #1 **with Citation - (Author, Year)**
 - Argument #2 with Citation (Author, Year)
 - Etc.
 - Main Point #2
 - Argument #1 with Citation - (Author, Year)
 - Argument #2 with Citation (Author, Year)
 - Etc.
- Ideally, your outline should be the topic sentences for paragraphs in your first draft.