What's the Point of Citing Sources?

Digital Citizenship

Digital citizenship is defined as the practice of appropriate, responsible behavior when using technology. There are nine main points highlighted within Digital Citizenship:

- Digital Access – Full electronic participation in society
- Digital Commerce – Electronic buying and selling of goods
- Digital Communication – Electronic exchange of information
- Digital Literacy – Process of teaching and learning about technology
- Digital Etiquette – Electronic standards of conduct or procedure
- Digital Law – Electronic responsibility for actions and deeds, such as stealing another person's work
- Digital Rights & Responsibilities – Freedoms extended to everyone in a digital world, such as free speech and privacy
- Digital Health & Wellness – Physical and psychological well-being in a digital technology world. For example, eye safety and Social Media addiction
- Digital Security – Electronic precautions to guarantee safety

Why Should I Cite Sources?

Citing a source means that you show, within the body of your text and on a works cited/reference page, that you took words, ideas, figures, images, etc. from another place. By citing sources, you avoid "stealing" someone else's work.

It is very important that you cite all of the sources you use in your research paper for several reasons:

- You want to show your reader that you have done proper research by listing the sources you used to get your information
- You want to be a responsible scholar by giving credit to other researchers and acknowledging their ideas
- You want to avoid plagiarism by properly giving credit when quoting words and ideas used by other authors
- You want your reader to be able to track down the sources you used by citing them accurately