

CONSTRUCTING SPEECHES

CITING SOURCES

What is a source?

A source is any information that you are able to include within your speech other than your own experience and general knowledge. A source comes from any research that you completed while you prepared for the speech. Some people also call this evidence or proof.

Types of sources

The most common types of sources are facts, statistics, and quotations. Each of these three can be subdivided into more specific types such as authority quotations, expert quotations, and lay person quotations.

So why should I use sources?

Sources are vital to a speech to create credibility, go beyond your current level of knowledge, and to achieve the audience perception that you aren't the only one concerned or informed about your topic, but that others are too.

What is a good source?

A good source is found in credible information. This can be from an informative pamphlet, newspapers, or selected websites. Often websites are not credible resources because there is no guarantee that the person is knowledgeable or unbiased about the material they are publishing. When sources are printed, there is more of a system to guarantee that the information presented is true and valid. Therefore, if you find a website that you believe is unbiased, bring the citation to your teacher and have them approve it for your speech. They will be able to inform you how to cite it in your speech.

Additionally, it is important to look at the timeliness of your sources. Sources should be found in materials that are recent because current developments or arguments that are newer could refute or even defeat your point. You want to be right up to date on your information so your arguments and ideas carry the most weight.

Now that I have sources how do I put them speech?

Obviously plagiarism is illegal and a not nice thing to do. Thus, it is necessary that sources be openly stated in your speech. Citing a source means giving credit where credit is due! But, just like we mentioned above, using information and citing the sources also adds to your credibility and believability as a speaker. You should not only make a bibliographic list of your sources for your teacher on your formal outline, but you also need to orally give the sources to your audience while you speak. And, don't just do it at the beginning or end of the speech! Sources should be cited throughout your speech.

Let's take a look at some examples of how to cite a source in your speech:

Citing a personal interview:

In a personal interview with Dr. Joe Bob Frank, a lead scientist of corn research at Southern Illinois Corn Technologies, conducted last Tuesday, 'Corn is a vegetable that contains a high concentration of starch.'

Citing a media source:

According to the New York Times of April 18th, 2002 "Even while corn contains a lot of starch, the nutritional value outweighs the negatives."