Chapter 6
Using (or Engaging) Sources

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Using Sources - Overview

What are the 3 uses of sources?
Read for a problem
Read for an argument
Read for evidence
Reading generously but critically
Preserving what you find
Record complete bibliographical data
Take full notes
Get attributions right
Get the context right
Use comments and keywords to organize your thoughts
Getting help

3 Uses of Sources

Preliminary:
Reading literature tells us that there are different kinds of reading. How would you read for the purposes identified in the text?
What is the problem of attribution in the ‘Internet information’ world (e.g. blogosphere)?

Read for a problem
This is more related to skimming or quick reading
What are you looking for?

Read for an argument
How do you read for get argument frameworks in your field?

Read for evidence
Similar claim, or useful claim - how do you use it?
How do you know you have sufficient representative evidence?
Use Secondary Sources to Find a Problem

Creative Agreement:
- Offer additional support to source's claim (new or stronger evidence)
- Confirm unsupported claims
- Apply claim more widely (e.g. to your field)

Creative Disagreement:
- Contradiction in kind (what kind of problem is it, what is its features, what is its value/significance)
- Part/Whole contradictions: (is part of, is related to, is necessary/not)
- Development/historical contradiction: (is/its changing, origin, development)
- External cause-effect contradiction: (incorrect cause, insufficient cause, broaden effect)
- Contradictions in perspective: (new point of view, new theoretical perspective)

From Craft of Research 3rd Ed.

Reading Generously but Critically

Why generously?
- When should you give the paper the benefit of doubt?
- What are you reading for?

How may you be critical of a source?
- What kinds of disagreements are likely?
- How might your critique of a source help your own research formulation?

Preserving What You Find

Record complete bibliographical data
- Take full notes: How do notes and bibliographic references relate to each other?
- Get attributions right

Get the context right
- Use comments and keywords to organize your thoughts
Getting the Context Right

- When you quote or summarize, be careful of context.
- When you record a claim of a source, note the rhetorical importance of that claim in the original.
- Be sure of the scope and confidence author expresses in making a claim.
- Don’t mistake the summary of another writer’s views for those of the author summarizing them.
- When dealing with sources that agree on a major claim, determine whether they also agree on how they interpret and support it.
- Identify the cause of disagreement.

Preserving What You Find

- Record complete bibliographical data.
- Take full notes: How do notes and bibliographic references relate to each other?
- Get attributions right.
- Get the context right.

Use comments and keywords to organize your thoughts.

Getting Help

- From whom may we seek help?
- How does explaining your work to someone help you?