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|  **Audio Transcript Citing Sources** |

At the beginning of your graduate program, you will draw heavily on the ideas of other people. You need to be really careful about making sure that you keep track of the sources of all ideas, in your notes, in your draft paper, and in your final submission. For most statements or arguments that you write, you will provide a list of one, or more often two or three, sources for the idea that you are presenting.

However, as you move through your graduate program, you will also be encouraged to develop your own voice. Most often this will require you to take a position on the topic you are writing about and to develop a set of key arguments that reflect the ideas you want to present in your paper. To do this effectively and with integrity, you must learn to clearly distinguish for the reader, as well as for yourself, which assertions are yours and which assertions you are drawing from other people.

When you present key point in your paper that reflects a unique position that you are taking on the subject, it is important to make it crystal clear to the reader that this is your idea. You might introduce it by saying, “What I planned to argue in this paper is blah, blah, blah.” If the statement you are making is your summary of the literature, make it really clear to the reader that you are synthesizing some of what you have learned, or you are applying it in a different way, and provide citations for the sources that prompted your thinking. If you are presenting an entirely new idea, then citations for that idea may not be required, but you need to include supporting arguments within that paragraph that draw on the professional literature. The most important thing, for the reader, is to distinguish between which is your idea and which are the ideas of other people.

You also cannot assume that what you think might be common knowledge between you and the instructor does not need a citation. Write as if you are speaking to a lay audience. Imagine that the reader is a family member who knows nothing about the health discipline you are studying or a colleague at work from another profession. You need to provide a citation for any idea that falls within the realm of the professional literature (e.g., health principles, concepts, theories). So do not make assumptions about what your reader knows. Instead, if you want to incorporate something you learned earlier in your course into your paper, for example, find sources to support that particular idea, concept, or assertion.

Being crystal clear and transparent about your sources is particularly important because you are in a professional program. Part of what you are learning as a new member of the profession is the development of your own voice, respect for the voices and the ideas of other people, and professional ethics for managing information with integrity.