

Why is referencing important? – Transcript

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Student 1: So they know that you haven't plagiarised, that's the main one. So that you know where you've got the work from as well, it's always nice to know that you haven't just stolen someone's thing without realising.

Student 2: Referencing in universities is really important, and I cannot say how many times I've got marked down because I didn't reference properly. Now, every time I do my assignments, I'm like 'I need to reference because I don't want to lose marks'. I got downgraded from an A to a B+ because I didn't reference properly, and they said in the feedback 'If you'd referenced, you would've got an A, but you didn't so you got a B+'.

Student 3: If you don't reference, you're plagiarising, and that's not good and you won't get very good marks if you do so. Crediting other people's work, of course, is good academic practice.

Student 4: It's intellectual honesty. A well-researched piece that has very comprehensive referencing gives a lot more weight to your own ideas, and that's important.

Student 5: So that you don't plagiarise. Anything that you do use, quote and reference it. It shows you're engaging with other people's views but then obviously you've got to evaluate it, elaborate a bit and make it your own.

Student 6: Without it, you could just make things up. You could say 'I read that this is true, so there you go'. In the same way that you decide whether a source is trustworthy or untrustworthy, you want to be able to check up on those sources. It can even help you – sometimes you'll work on something and maybe you don't use it, but you have the reference for it and you can use it later. I think that's definitely good. And even referencing styles can help.

Student 7: It's just a pain. It does help, but it is a pain.

Student 6: Because then everyone has the same information in the same layout.