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**To Cite or not to Cite? (1)**

**Rule of Thumb:**

**If you are not sure whether you need a citation after any particular statement in your paper, it is better to cite than not.** *You will not be marked down or accused of plagiarism if you have* ***too many*** *citations, but you could be marked down or accused of plagiarism if you have* ***too few***.

**Look at the following statements and decide whether you would need to cite these statements.**

1. One study showed that children who watched more than ten hours of television per week had poorer performances in school than children who watched fewer than ten hours per week.

Citation needed? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Many studies indicate that television may be a bad influence on children, both socially and academically.

Citation needed? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Anorexia nervosa is a serious disease that causes the patients to starve themselves.

Citation needed? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**NOTES**

**You should cite when:**

* You give statistics.
* The information is unique and not known by most people.
* The reader might ask, “How do you know that?”
* You use a direct quotation from someone else.
* You use someone else’s ideas.
* You paraphrase a direct quotation from someone else.

**You don’t need to cite when:**

* The information is commonly known (either by the general population, or commonly known within the particular discipline).
* When most or all of your sources say the same thing on that particular point.
* When it is your own original thought or opinion.

**What if you’re not sure?**

If you are not sure, as stated under “Rule of Thumb” above, it is better to include a citation. You will not be accused of plagiarism for citing something you didn’t need to.