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**To Cite or not to Cite? (2)**

**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. Girls learn languages more easily than boys do.

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

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

1. In the United States, obesity is a serious problem.

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

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

1. Twenty percent of diabetics recover from their illness by changing their diet and lifestyle.

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.