

## **CSC: CoR: Chapter 6: Engaging Sources**

The 10 salient sentence strings presented below are lifted from the chapter as is, without modification (except, perhaps, for a bit of punctuation here or there). They are presented in order of appearance in the chapter.

### **Ten Salient Sentence Strings**

1. Once you decide that a source is worth reading, record *all* of it's bibliographical information. Do this before you do anything else: it only takes a moment, and we promise that no habit will serve you better for the rest of your career.
2. You may think that this advice is overly cautious, but it isn't. Nothing is more frustrating than having the perfect quotation or bit of information in your notes and being unable to use it in your writing, because you didn't completely document your source and can't find it again.
3. When students hear experts disagree, they become cynical and dismiss expert knowledge as just opinion. But don't mistake informed and thoughtful debate over legitimately contested issues for mere opinion. In fact, it's the mark of an active field.
4. Some new researchers think that they weaken their case if they mention any views opposing their own. The opposite is true. When you acknowledge the views of others, you show that you not only know those views, but have carefully considered and confidently respond to them.
5. If an important question is available in its original form and context, it is risky and intellectually lazy to not to look it up. You don't have to agree with a source to use its data; in fact, it's argument does not even have to be relevant to your question, so long as its data are.
6. Then take notes in a way that will help you not only to remember and use what you have read but also to further your own thinking.
7. Summarize when you need only the points of a passage, section, or even whole article or book. Summary is useful for context or views that are related but not specifically related. A summary of a source never serves as good evidence.
8. *Never* abbreviate a quotation thinking that you can accurately construct it later. You can't. And if you misquote, you'll undermine your credibility.
9. Annotation is a technique of marking up a text through comments, questions, and cross-references to other texts. Annotating in the margins is generally more productive than simply highlighting because it brings into relief the relevance of a source to your project.
10. For a research project, an annotated bibliography offers a bird's-eye view of a range of sources and the roles they might play in your paper. Often the assembling of an annotated bibliography is a distinct stage in a research process, one that allows you (and your teacher) to reflect on the sources you have collected. Each annotation is an opportunity to evaluate the credibility of a source, summarize its argument, and explain its relevance to your project.