

Safe Practices: An Exercise

Review the following passages to determine whether citations have been used properly. If a citation is missing or inaccurate, suggestions are provided to correct the issue and ensure proper attribution.

1. Last summer, my family and I traveled to Chicago, which was quite different from the rural area I grew up in. We saw the dinosaur Sue at the Field Museum and ate pizza at Gino's East.

✓ No citation needed. This is a personal anecdote based on lived experience and common knowledge.

2. Americans want to create a more perfect union; they also want to establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty for everybody.

✗ Citation needed. This passage closely mirrors the preamble to the U.S. Constitution. A proper attribution or reference to the Constitution is required.

3. I find it ridiculous that 57% of high school students think their teachers assign too much homework.

✗ Citation needed. Statistical information must be supported with a credible source. The writer should include where this percentage came from.

4. Dr. King was certain that nobody would want to be contented with a feigning type of social analysis that concerns itself only with effects and doesn't deal with root causes.

✗ Citation needed. This is a paraphrase of Dr. King's work and must be attributed accordingly, preferably with an in-text citation.

5. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wrote that the city of Birmingham's "white power structure" left African-Americans there with "no alternative" but to demonstrate ("Letter from the Birmingham Jail" para. 5).

✓ Proper citation used. The quote is attributed to the correct source, and quotation marks are used appropriately.

6. In "Letter from the Birmingham Jail," King writes to fellow clergy saying that although they "deplore the demonstrations taking place in Birmingham, your statement fails to express a similar concern for the conditions that brought about the demonstrations."

✗ Needs more precise citation. While the quote is marked, a parenthetical or in-text citation is needed to guide readers to the full source.

7. My friend Kara told me that she loves living so close to the ocean.

✓ No citation needed. This is a personal conversation and anecdotal in nature.

8. Americans are guaranteed the right to freely gather for peaceful meetings.

✓ No citation needed. This is common knowledge based on constitutional rights.