

### III. Motivation. Why We Cite: Analysis & Reflection

*For scholars, it's more than defensive driving*



Citations are made for strategic reasons. Read the scholarly arguments below for sourcing and citing prior research. Discuss them, and rank the top 2 in order of importance for your field. Report out to the group. **Follow-Up:** Reflective free-write on personal concept of authorship.

- 1) "Citations are used to recognize and acknowledge the intellectual property rights of authors. They are a matter of ethics and a defense against plagiarism" (Swales & Feak, 2004, p. 251).
- 2) Research writing is a conversational practice. "The researcher discovers or invents a claim, researches that claim, sees what others have said, and writes inclusively" (Yancey, 2008, p. 166).
- 3) "We make citations because we think our colleagues think they are important and we want to show that we know that. These works 'should' have a scholarly impact on us, whether or not they actually did" (Bavelas, 1978, p. 160).
- 4) Citations signal professional competence. "The ways writers present their topics, signal their allegiances, and stake their claims represent careful negotiations with, and considerations of, their colleagues so their writing displays a professional competence . . ." (Hyland, 2009, p. 88-89).
- 5) "Citations are used to create research space for the citing author. By describing what has been done, citations point the way to what has not been done, and so prepare a space for new research" (Swales & Feak, 2004, p. 252).
- 6) To show respect, introduce the original source to the reader, and distinguish from "copying others' writing as one's own" (Liu, 2005, p. 235). ". . . the concept of 'plagiarism' as an immoral practice has existed in China for a very long time," adds Liu, citing the Chinese term, "piao qie," from AD 700.

#### References

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- Yancey, K. B. (2008). Beyond plagiarism. In Rebecca Moore Howard and Amy E. Robillard (Eds), *Pluralizing plagiarism: Identities, contexts, pedagogies* (pp.158-170). Portsmouth, NH: Boynton Cook Publishers, Inc.

**Note:** This activity was inspired by *Academic Writing for Graduate Students* (Swales & Feak, 2004, p. 251-252).