

**Why Cite Your Sources:** Citing your sources, whether in a platform or interpretive speech, is important for several reasons.

1. It gives proper credit to the authors of the words or ideas that you incorporated into your speech.
2. It gives credibility (ethos) to you as a speech writer who did your due diligence in researching your speech. It also allows you to “borrow” the credibility of the sources you use.
3. It allows those who hear your speech to identify your sources, in order to learn more about the ideas that you include in your speech.
4. Citing your sources consistently and accurately helps you avoid committing plagiarism in your speech writing.

Citations are necessary to show the source of your material in both platforms and interpretations. Use citations when you directly quote, paraphrase, or summarize information from any source.

- ❖ **Platform Preparation Rule #7:** *The competitor must provide a script and a citation page at each tournament, along with the completed Platform Speech Script Submission Form. All sources must be **cited parenthetically, identified verbally within the speech, and documented on the citation page.** Note: Electronic Script Submission is required at NITOC.*
- ❖ **Platform Presentation Rule #1:** *All direct quotations and primary sources **must be cited verbally** within the body of the speech. Use of another person’s words or ideas without crediting them is plagiarism and strictly forbidden.*
- ❖ **Dramatic and Humorous Interpretation and Interp in a Box Preparation Rule #6:** *The competitor may quote material external to the piece in the introduction only and must cite the source verbally.*
- ❖ **Interpretation Presentation Rule #1:** *The competitors must identify the title(s) and author(s) near the beginning of the piece. the competitor will receive a one (1) rank penalty for failure to cite the source(s).*

**How to Cite in Your Script:** If you directly quote, paraphrase, or summarize information from any source, you must both:

1. **Identify your source verbally for your audience.**

The following are excellent examples of different yet acceptable and appropriate ways to do this.

a. **Author**

- Example: A research study by *Alexander Bartik and colleagues* found that “...”

b. **Title of Work**

- Example: In a report titled “*Education During Covid 19 and Beyond*”, the UN predicts ...

c. **Title of Source of Work**

- Example: Several studies, including this one done by *the National Center for Research on Education Access and Choice* found that “...”

d. **Bible Sources (Quoted)** - When using the Bible as a source either in a platform or an interp, be sure to name the chapter(s) and verse(s) if applicable. For Interps, you will also need to state the author and which version you are using. If the author is unknown, simply indicate that.

- Example for Platforms: According to *John 3:16*, “...”

- Example for Interp:

- From *Jonah*, author unknown, Chapters 1 through 4 from the King James Bible.
- This is the story of Moses from *Exodus* written by *Moses* himself from the *New International Version*.

e. **Bible Sources (Adapted)** - When a story from the Bible is adapted for an Open Interp, the title of the book in the Bible being interpreted must be included. You must also indicate that you are adapting the story in your own words.

- Example: “This is the story of Jonah, adapted by (your name).”
- Example: “This is the story of David and Goliath, from I Samuel, adapted by (your name).”

2. **Cite your source in the text of the speech (parenthetically)** to easily connect it to the source entry on your Citation Page.
  - a. If possible, **include the author's name and the page number**.
    - Example: A research study by Alexander Bartik and colleagues found that “...” (Bartik, et al, 37).
    - Example: The Washington Post quoted a study showing ... (Wan).
    - Example: Several studies, including this one done by the National Center for Research on Education Access and Choice found that “...” (Camera).
  - b. **If no author is given, use the title of the work**.
    - Example: A study by FAIR Health investigated ... (FAIR Health, 2).
  - c. **Scriptural sources** should include the name of the version followed by the book, chapter, and verse (if applicable).
    - Example: According to John 3:16, “....” (*King James Bible*, John 3:16).

**How to Cite in Your Citation Page:** You must provide a list of all the sources you have used in your speech, preferably alphabetized. You may use any citation style (APA, MLA, etc.) for this list. [See Purdue Online Writing Lab ([owl.english.purdue.edu](http://owl.english.purdue.edu)) for detailed explanations of how to create this list based on the style you choose.] The in-text (parenthetical) citation in your script should correspond with the first word of the matching entry on the Citation Page.

- Example:

**Script:**

A research study by Alexander Bartik and colleagues found that “...” (Bartik, et al, 37)

**Citation Page:**

Bartik, Alexander et al. “The Impact of COVID-19 on Small Business Outcomes and Expectations.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, vol. 117, no. 30, 2020, <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2006991117>.

**How to Cite Images:** For speeches with visual aids, image and graphic citations should be included as a second “Image Citations” section on your citation page. They do not need to be cited in-text or verbally in the script.

**What NOT to Do:**

- Leave citations out. This violates Stoa’s Plagiarism policy and may result in disqualification.
- Cite all your sources together. This does not allow your audience to know from whom you got specific information.
- Avoid asking for help. If you are unsure if you are citing your sources correctly, ask a parent, coach, or even a Speech Committee member.