# Supporting your ideas with credible sources

A key element of academic writing is supporting your ideas with credible sources. Aside from simply acknowledging that ideas need to be supported with research, to master this, students must also know how to:

* summarize, paraphrase and quote
* determine whether a source is credible (without spending an hour determining this)
* determine how much support an argument or idea needs
* introduce sources into their writing (or presentation) using signal phrases
* properly cite/reference/attribute sources

Once you know, you just know with this concept. Convincing students that you must support your ideas with research is only the first hurdle. Learning HOW to do this is another whole process, and since many academics just do this without even thinking about it, it can be difficult to break the process down into manageable chunks.