

## What's the deal with citation generators?

While citation generators can seem helpful for generating citations quickly and without the sometimes-laborious work of using a citation style guide, these generators are not always reliable and are prone to errors.

The quality of a citation produced by a generator is only as good as the information that goes into it. Thus, the citations produced by these tools often contain mistakes in formatting the citations, such as excluding information or including information not needed, putting information in incorrect places, missing vital formatting, such as italics, or even adding incorrect formatting. They may also provide citation formats based on outdated versions of citation styles.

While citation generators can complete some of the manual work, please be aware that manually reviewing each citation against a [style guide](#) is necessary to check for errors. If you choose to use a citation generator, you must [take the responsibility](#) to double-check and verify your citations to ensure they are correct and properly formatted. If you do not check your citations for accuracy, you risk making errors that can lower your grade, make your hard work look unfinished, or result in unintentional plagiarism.

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### Website links:

- [library.ok.ubc.ca/guides-and-tools/citation-style-guides](https://library.ok.ubc.ca/guides-and-tools/citation-style-guides)
- [owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/using\\_citation\\_machines\\_responsibly.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/using_citation_machines_responsibly.html)

