

Inquiry Mini-Lessons

Crediting Sources

It is important that students develop the habit of crediting their sources early. Not only is it a skill they will need later on in their school careers, but it also demonstrates respect for the originators of the material.

Time: 30 minutes

Materials:

- a variety of non-fiction texts with sources included in the back of the text
- a sample non-fiction text from *Animals in Our Lives, Water Works!*, or *Inside a Story*, or one of your own
- chart paper and markers

Grouping: whole class

Procedure:

1. Tell students that when writers are gathering information from other sources to use in their own writing, it's important to tell where the information came from. This is called crediting the source.

A source is any person, place, or thing where the information came from. To find information on your inquiry question, you will have to use different sources. It's your responsibility to list all the sources you used to gather information for your writing, otherwise people will think you made the ideas up yourself. Pictures and illustrations that you use also have to be credited, unless they are your own.

2. Explain where a list of sources can be found in different non-fiction texts, showing examples from the samples you have collected.

The easiest way to credit the sources I've used is to have a list at the end of my own writing, just like this.

3. Display a sample non-fiction text from one of the inquiry units, e.g., *Helper Animals* from the *Animals in Our Lives* unit. Set up a three-column chart on chart paper and write information about the text. Think aloud as you write on the chart.

Let's say I found some information in this text (show book), I would write the title of the book and the author's name (if there is one). Whenever you write a title, you underline it.

4. Continue with other sample texts.

I also used this Website; I'll write the Website title and address. As well, I used a magazine and some facts from a movie we watched in class.

The chart could be used as an anchor chart and might look like this:

Books	Internet	Other
<u>Helper Animals</u>	YouTube www.youtube.com/watch?v=BMhAguzWZjk	The Essential Guide to Caring for your New Puppy—a video
<u>Guide Dogs</u> by Melissa McDaniel		Dogs in Canada—a magazine

5. Explain to students that from now on, they must credit the sources they use in their writing.
6. Have the anchor chart posted in the room or make copies for students to put in their Inquiry Notebooks. Encourage students to refer to the anchor chart when crediting sources for their writing.

Teaching Tip: If you're doing a whole-class research inquiry, then you can work together to create a collective chart of credited sources. If students are working in pairs, small groups, or even individually, they may need some extra support to compile their credited sources.