



RESEARCH AND REFERENCING

Most pieces of academic writing need to include references to other sources of information, usually academic literature. To improve your marks in this area consider the following:

RESEARCH

Part of the process of writing your work involves you doing background research into the topic, **evaluating** the information you find and using it as evidence within your writing.

Make sure that your sources are **relevant** to your topic and that you have considered the **evidence** they provide, embedding this in your writing to support arguments, in some cases illustrating both sides of an argument, and not just for the sake of it.

INFORMATION SOURCES

The **quality** of the information you find and the **range** of sources are important. Check where the information has come from and who has written the information – do they have authority? Provide a **balanced** range of sources from different viewpoints. Before you start, check guidance provided in your module handbook or by your tutor to see what sort of research they expect you to do and how they want you to present it.

REFERENCING

As well as finding and using information sources, you need to **cite** and **reference** them correctly. In order to gain marks in this area, therefore, you need to carefully follow the guidance given on citation and referencing styles: this means how you embed the references into your work. Check what **referencing style** your School uses and whether they require a reference list or bibliography.

