REFERENCING IN THE ONLINE WORLD

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The pandemic has triggered shifting of educational approach from face to face to online in just a snap. Aside from adjusting to the interface of online platforms utilized in learning, a lot of more factors challenged both teachers and learners. This has been true in the field of English subject receiving complaints of cases where students failed to demonstrate proper referencing or citing. Cases of plagiarized works were seen to have gravely peaked during this period just because of the incapacity to properly cite the source of the definition, examples etc. If not alarming, this is a very disappointing issue considering that learners should have known how to cite their references firsthand especially now that formats are available throughout the internet.

More than avoiding plagiarism, referencing or citing the sources of one's work merits a lot of other areas. According to the University of New South Wales (2022), referencing shows the capacity of the user to give proper credits to the researchers who had utmost dedications studying or proving a certain claim. The said institution highlighted that this is a way of giving respect and acknowledging the efforts of the real authors. Besides, referencing could give more reliability, truthfulness, and persuasion to the writing than those plain narratives without citations. If one has to use an idea or a word from a certain author, referencing must be done. This only means that even just reading an article to get a simple idea must be given proper credits, be it in written or oral

form.

Referencing is very easy. This is why a lot of educators do not see the logic of why students tend to ignore citations when devising their own works. The Study Space (2022) emphasized the key elements of citation which basically includes the author and publication details as well as the materials used. For books, journals, magazines and similar sources, date of publication, title of the article and the title of the publication, authors, volume and page, as well as place of publication must be included in the reference. For websites, the links must be included as well as the date of access. Such references could be written in two forms: in-text (usually author and date in the middle of paragraphs) and end-text (complete citation put at the end of an article or in footnotes).

In an era where technology has transformed complicated tasks into easy ones, citation generators could actually make the world go round. Citation generators are online referencing tools which could properly cite a particular source as a user encodes the right information. The citation will automatically be formatted depending on what type (APA, MLA, Chicago etc.). Depending on the format, one may access the APA Citation Generator, MLA Citation Generator, Turabian Citation Generator, to name a few (BibGuru, 2022). This will shorten the time spent for referencing and will enable the students or users to perform other necessary tasks.

Technology has made everything way too easy. From the very critical systematic handwritten referencing using books to just copying and pasting the website just to get a formatted reference, internet has changed the way citation is done. This only proves that at least, life has been practically easier and that learners must have to excuse in not citing researchers and authors as the sources of their outputs. Considering this leniency of the online world, students should still never forget that back then and until now, citing the reference remains the most essential part of any writing because as they become professionals, they would have to encounter the notion that credits must be given to where they are due.

References:

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