Exercise 2: Quoting and Citing

The following exercise asks students to find their own sources, write citations for them, and then practice quoting and citing material from them. The instructor should provide directions regarding the preferred style of citation (Chicago, MLA, etc.). The exercise is adapted with only slight alterations from one developed by Maureen Nutting of the Department of History in North Seattle Community College, and is used with her permission.

1. Find one book that deals with a topic in U.S. history from earliest settlement to the 1860s. Provide a full citation for that book: author or editor (last name first, then first name); title; edition, if indicated; place of publication; publisher; and date of publication.

   a. Select a phrase from page 100 of the book. Write a sentence in which you quote from the book, using that phrase, and add a footnote number to the end of the sentence. Then create a footnote/endnote for the sentence that includes author’s name; title; place of publication; publisher; date of publication; and page number. Attach a photocopy of page 100.

   b. Select an idea from page 130 of the same book. Paraphrase that idea in a sentence (that is, put the idea in your own words) and add a footnote number to the end of the sentence. Then create a footnote/endnote citation for the sentence. Attach a photocopy of page 130.

2. Find a web site that deals with a topic in U.S. history from earliest settlement to the 1860s. Write a citation for the web site that provides the following: name of author or page maintainer, if there is one; name of the page; URL; date accessed.

3. Find an article in a history journal that deals with a topic in U.S. history from earliest settlement to the 1860s. Provide a full citation: author; title of article (inside quotation marks); name, number, volume, and date of journal; and pages on which the article appears.

   a. Write a sentence in which you quote from the first page of the article. Provide a footnote/endnote for the quote.

   b. Write a sentence in which you paraphrase an idea from the second page of the article. Provide a footnote for the paraphrase. Attach a photocopy of the first two pages of the article.

4. Find an article in a newspaper that deals with a topic in U.S. history from earliest settlement to the 1860s. Write a citation to the article that includes the following information: author’s name, if given; title of article; name of newspaper; date; and page, if given.

5. Find an article in an online database that deals with a topic in U.S. history from earliest settlement to the 1860s. Provide a full citation: author; title of article (inside quotation marks); name, number, volume, and date of journal; start page for the article or number of paragraphs; URL; and date accessed.