

Transcript

Top tip from a student

SPEAKER: So for me, I would say, when I very first started doing research and putting together things like referencing, we found it, as a group, really difficult to try and understand some of the reasoning behind it. And somebody explained it beautifully to me. And they were like, you were joining an academic community.

That's what you're ultimately doing. And in that community, there's etiquette. There's rules. John called it practice. I could refer to it as etiquette, but it's the rite of passage. Now when you're in higher education, that's part of that journey that you go on. It's not simply a qualification at the end.

It's that journey that you take to it, and these are those additional skills that you learn along the way. So if I would say that there was that lesson learned, it's that, remember, it is a community, which means that there's other people. And I know a few of the others have said it that have gone through the same process as well.

So that's why you have the tools and techniques. So they're all there, and everyone is there to help you along the way. Over the years, I've tried all the different tools. And actually, as it happens, now, I just build it into my note taking. So for me, my approach is very much like, as I'm taking the notes or doing my reading materials, I'll literally just add in the citation in my work as I'm writing notes, so it's all together.

I will then put the author. Sometimes, I don't even put the year. I'll just put the author, and then I'll create a little URL link to where that source is. Now that could be on OU's library. It could be something I found online. And then I do all of my references.

There'll be a point where I'll be like, my brain's hurting as I'm doing my TMA. I need a bit of a task to do, so I feel like I'm doing my TMA, and then I'll often spend that 30 minutes being like, my brain's switched off. I can't write anymore. But actually, I could sit and just add in all of the references as I was doing my note taking.