Citing Sources

Citing is giving credit for another person’s work you use in your papers, whether it be graphics, tables, exact quotations, etc. Failing to cite, whether deliberately or unintentionally, constitutes plagiarism.

What sources must you cite?
1. Ideas that are not your own
2. Researched information
3. Statistics, graphics, images, etc. you did not personally create or compile
4. Direct quotes
5. Paraphrased or summarized information

What sources do you not need to cite?
1. One’s own independent material:
   a. observations
   b. thoughts
   c. compilations of facts
   d. experimental results
2. Common knowledge:
   a. standard information, like major facts of history, dates, and corresponding major events
      Note: You must cite a particular historian’s interpretation/analysis of events, as it is their own idea.
3. Common sense most people know (example: Humans must breathe in and out to survive.)

Refer to page 428 of the LB Brief for more information on things you do not need to cite.