

Avoiding Plagiarism



*Two Locations: In the Lyman Beecher Brooks Library, First Floor
and Madison 109*

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OBJECTIVE

In this workshop, participants will learn various techniques to avoid plagiarism in their writing projects.

This workshop does not cover citation styles such as APA and MLA. It strictly focuses on recognizing when to cite.

If you are interested in attending citation style workshops, please sign up at nsu.mywconline.net

The word *plagiarize* comes from the Greek word “plagium,” which means “a kidnapping.” Unfortunately, some students intentionally plagiarize. Others unintentionally do it by not knowing when and how to properly credit their sources.



Has the student plagiarized the material from the original source?

Original Source Material	Student Version
<p>The study of learning derives from essentially two sources. Because learning involves the acquisition of knowledge, the first concerns the nature of knowledge and how we come to know things.... The second source in which modern learning theory is rooted concerns the nature and representation of mental life.</p>	<p>There are two sources that serve as the foundation for conducting research on learning. The first source addresses characteristics of knowledge itself and the different ways in which we learn things. The second source focuses on what goes on in our minds and how that is theoretically represented.</p>

Has the student plagiarized the material from the original source?

Original Source

African-descended people have been in the Americas since the late 15th century. By the 16th century, nearly all the European expeditions included African peoples, both free and enslaved. As the Americas were increasingly populated by non-Native Americans from Europe and Africa, they played a pivotal role in shaping the culture and politics of the various regions. Yet, the historical narrative of this period fails to include the names, faces, and large-scale presence of Africans in the colonization and populations of the Americas. These historical silences have skewed our perspective of the past, erasing people of color and supplanting it with false narratives. Nowhere were these silences the most obvious than in America's first colony Virginia, the site where the debasement of Blacks established a model for

References:

Newby-Alexander, C. L. (2020). The "Twenty and Odd": The Silences of Africans in Early Virginia Revealed. *Phylon* (1960-), 57(1), 25–36. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/26924985>

Student Version

People from Africa have been in the Americas since the late 1400's. By the 1500s, almost all European travels included enslaved and non-enslaved Africans. While European and African people's numbers increased, politics and culture were significantly affected. Unfortunately, many historical narratives do not include the contributions of Africans. The silence is the most palpable in Virginia, one of the first permanent European settlements.

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African-descended people have been in the Americas since the late 15th century. By the 16th century, nearly all the European expeditions included African peoples, both free and enslaved. As the Americas were increasingly populated by non-Native Americans from Europe and Africa, they played a pivotal role in shaping the culture and politics of the various regions. Yet, the historical narrative of this period fails to include the names, faces, and large-scale contributions of African people to the colonization and populations of the Americas. This silence is a result of our perspective of the past, erasing people and their contributions from historical narratives. Nowhere were these silences more palpable than in the early colony Virginia, the site where the descendants of the first African people arrived.

References:

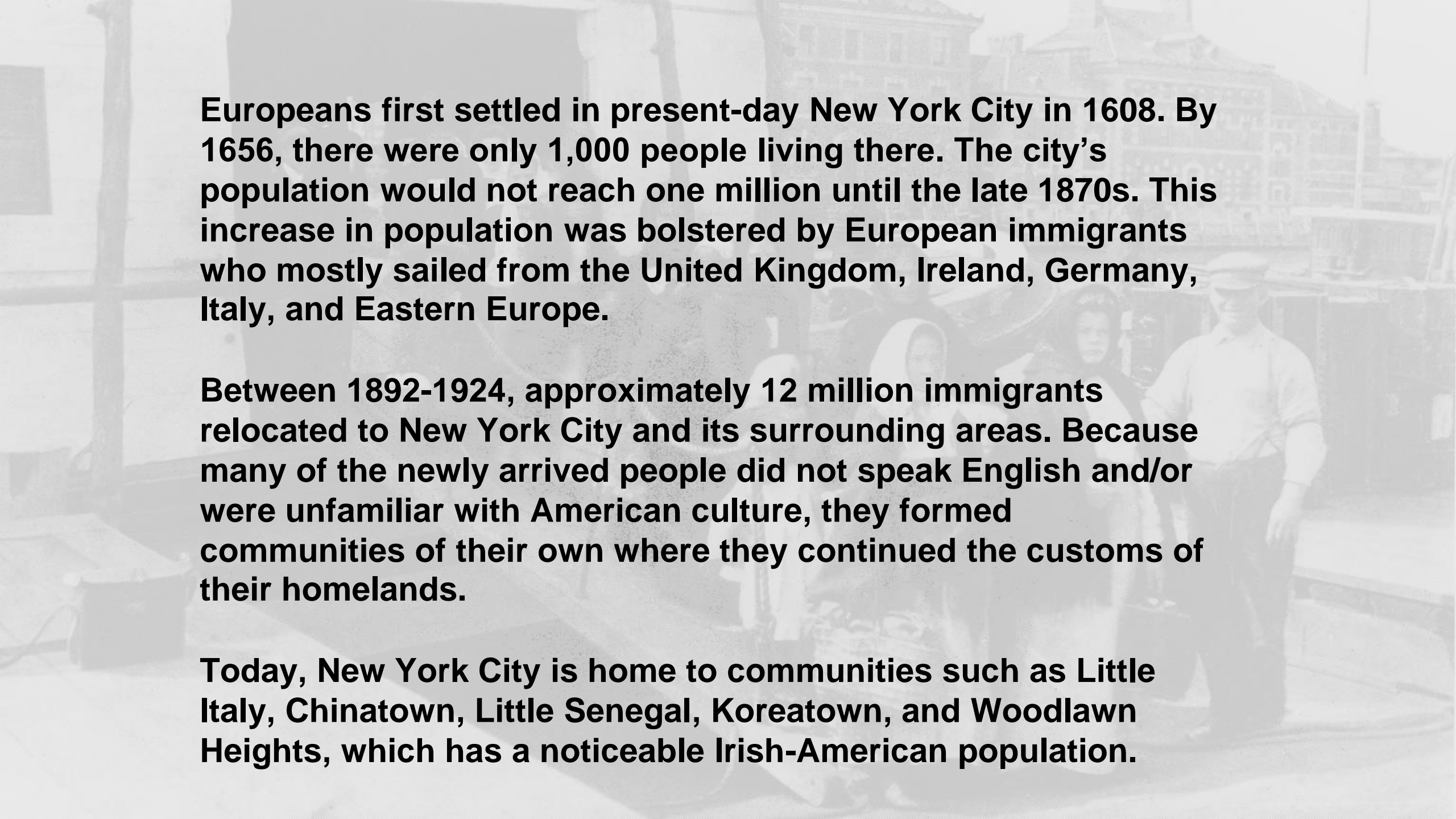
Newby-Alexander, C. L. (2020). The Silences of Africans in Early Virginia Revealed. *Privilege & Power*, 57(1), 25–36. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/26924000>

Student Version

People from Africa have been in the Americas since the late 1400's. By the 1500s, almost all European travels included enslaved and non-enslaved Africans. While European and African people's numbers increased, politics and culture were significantly affected. Dr. Cassandra L. Newby-Alexander from Norfolk State University writes that, unfortunately, many historical narratives do not include the contributions of Africans. The silence is palpable in Virginia, one of the first permanent European settlements.



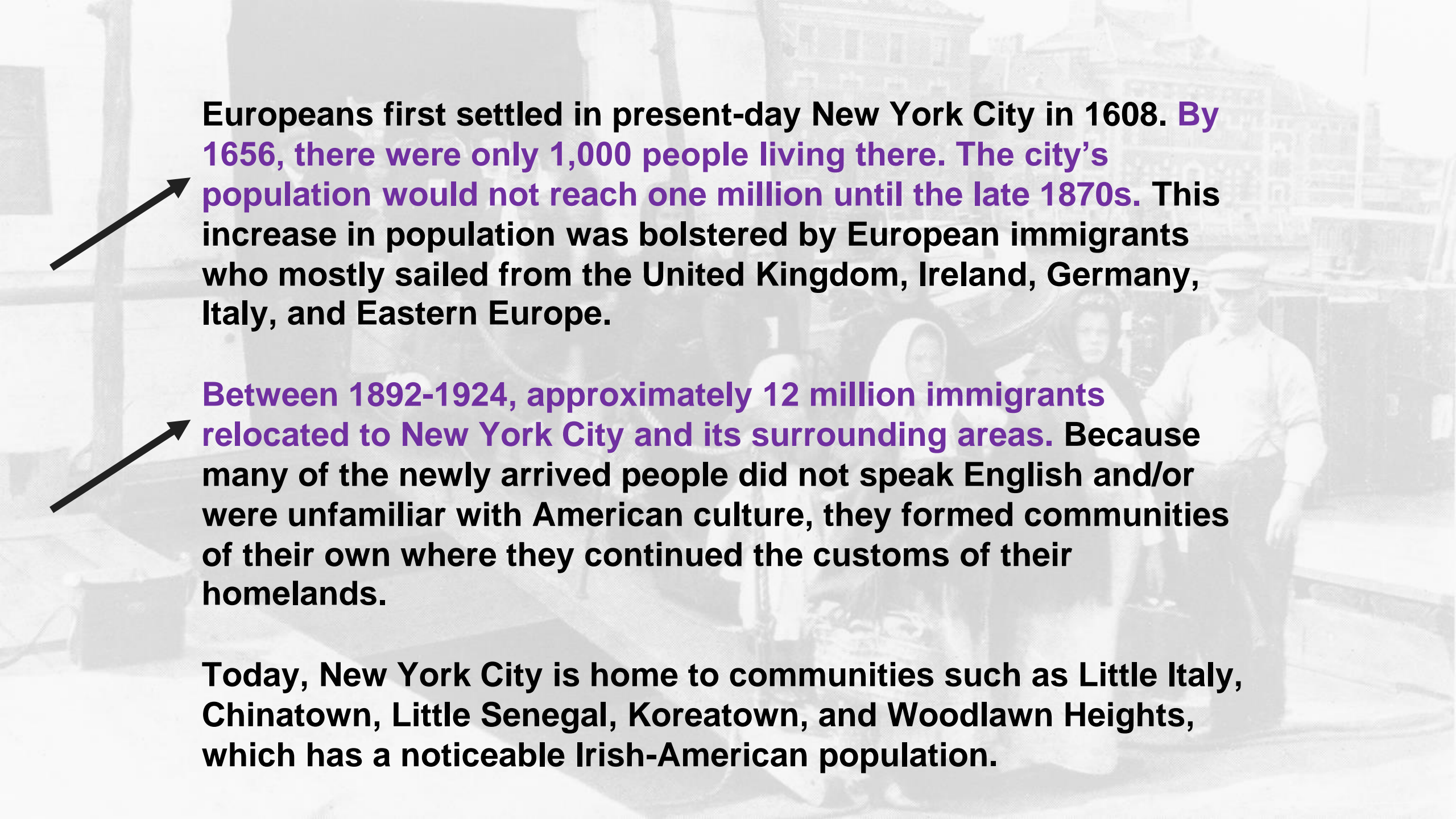
Dr. Cassandra L. Newby-Alexander from Norfolk State University (2020)



Europeans first settled in present-day New York City in 1608. By 1656, there were only 1,000 people living there. The city's population would not reach one million until the late 1870s. This increase in population was bolstered by European immigrants who mostly sailed from the United Kingdom, Ireland, Germany, Italy, and Eastern Europe.

Between 1892-1924, approximately 12 million immigrants relocated to New York City and its surrounding areas. Because many of the newly arrived people did not speak English and/or were unfamiliar with American culture, they formed communities of their own where they continued the customs of their homelands.

Today, New York City is home to communities such as Little Italy, Chinatown, Little Senegal, Koreatown, and Woodlawn Heights, which has a noticeable Irish-American population.



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Here is what your high school teachers may have instructed you regarding research papers and citing source material:

- ✓ Develop a topic based on what has already been said and written **BUT** write something new and original.
- ✓ Rely on experts' and authorities' opinions **BUT** build upon and/or disagree with those opinions.
- ✓ Give credit to previous researchers **BUT** make your own significant contribution.
- ✓ Improve your English to fit into a discourse community by building upon what you hear and read **BUT** use your own words and your own voices.





SPECTACULAR
MAGAZINE

This act of researching, developing your own ideas and opinions based on what you read, and citing the sources you used to support your arguments and ideas.....

....this is you becoming an ethical and credible researcher/writer, A SCHOLAR!

SO....

HOW WILL I KNOW WHEN AND WHAT TO CITE?

Generally, common knowledge is information that someone finds undocumented in at least five credible sources.

For example, “writing is difficult,” is considered common knowledge in the field of composition studies because at least five credible sources can back up the claim.

Remember: When in doubt, just cite.





Using Signal Phrases is one strategy for citing sources



According to the New York Times, the population of New York City is 8.4 million.

The New York Police Department *states* the crime rate in the Bronx has been decreasing since 2014.



Residents between the ages of 45-60 prefer public transportation over ride share apps in New York City, *as stated in a recent joint study conducted by New York University, Columbia University, and Brooklyn College.*

A scientist in a white lab coat and blue gloves is looking through a microscope in a laboratory setting. The background is slightly blurred, showing other lab equipment.

What is specialized information?

- **Facts that are not widely known or cannot be easily retrieved**
- **Information that a trained/educated professional in the field would have to confirm**
- **Data that can be charted or graphed**
- **Whenever you include specialized information in your writing, you must credit the source.**

Differentiating between specialized information and common knowledge

The 28th President of the United States is Woodrow Wilson.

easily accessible information

cannot be charted or graphed

Sony owns Columbia Records, Epic Records, and PlayStation.

easily accessible information

cannot be charted or graphed

t be charted or graphed

Citations NOT required



Differentiating between specialized information and common knowledge

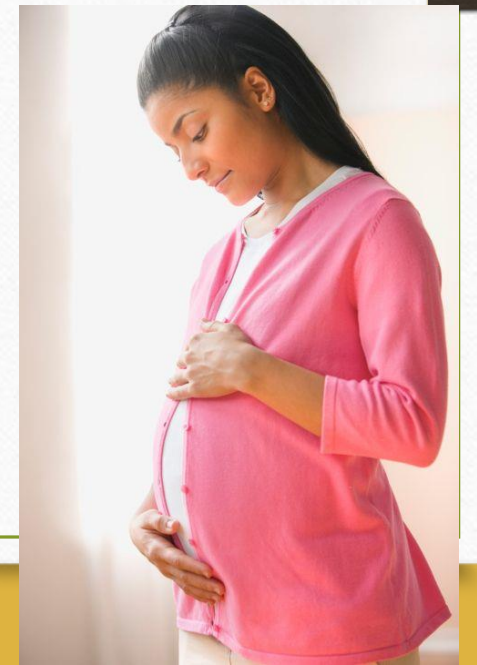
Mexico City currently has 8.85 million residents.

*easily accessible information
can be charted or graphed*

Pregnant women are more susceptible to contracting listeria than non-pregnant women.


*not widely known
information medical professionals would have*

Citations ARE required



A wooden chessboard is positioned on a dark, polished wooden floor. The board is partially open, revealing the chess pieces. The pieces are arranged in their starting positions, with dark pieces on the top half and light pieces on the bottom half. The board has a checkered pattern of light and dark squares. The text "Decide if the following statements require citations." is overlaid on the board in a white, serif font. A thin white horizontal line is positioned below the text.

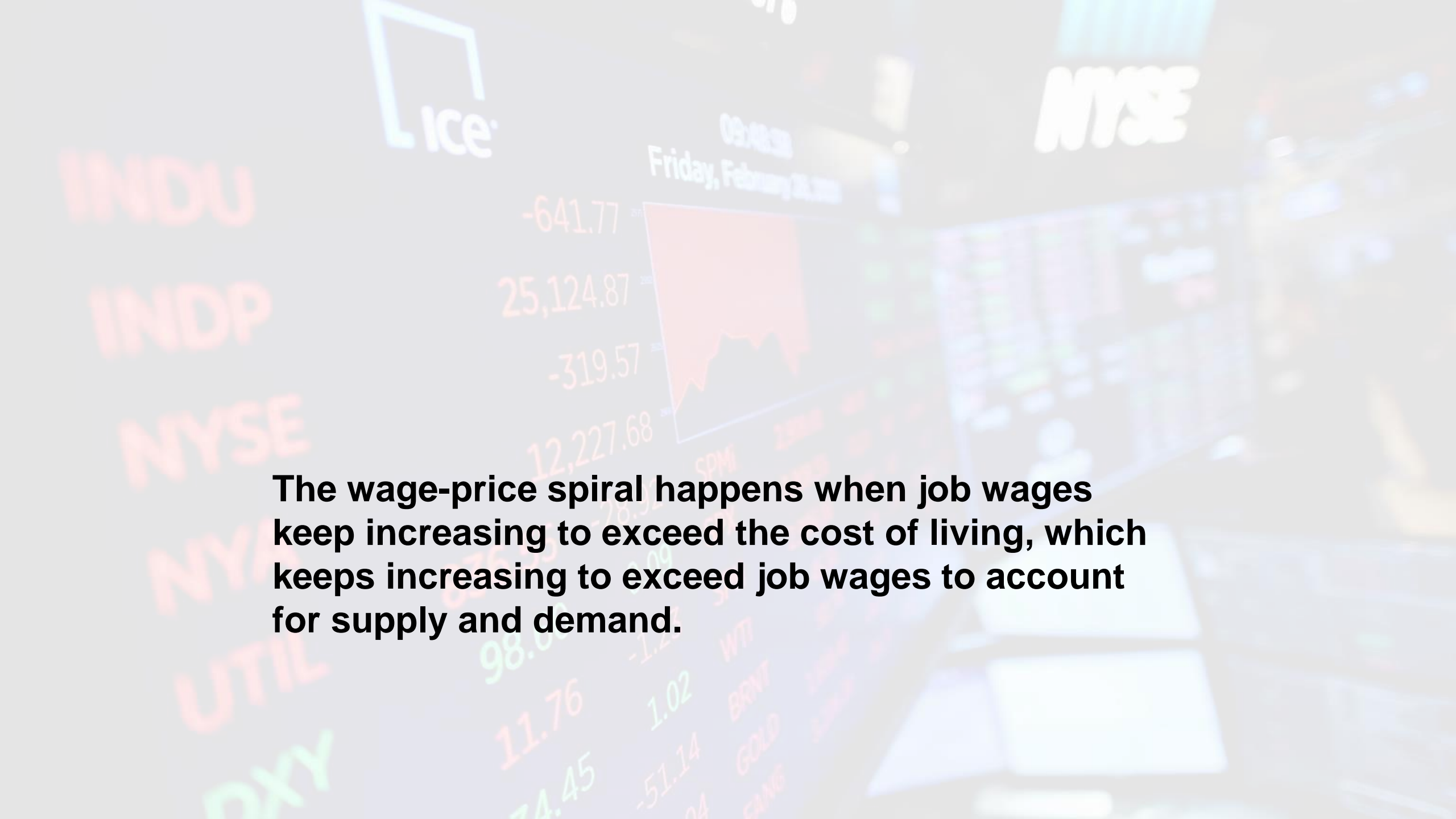
Decide if the following
statements require citations.



**The Seattle Space
Needle has 27 floors,
and it was first opened
in March 1929.**

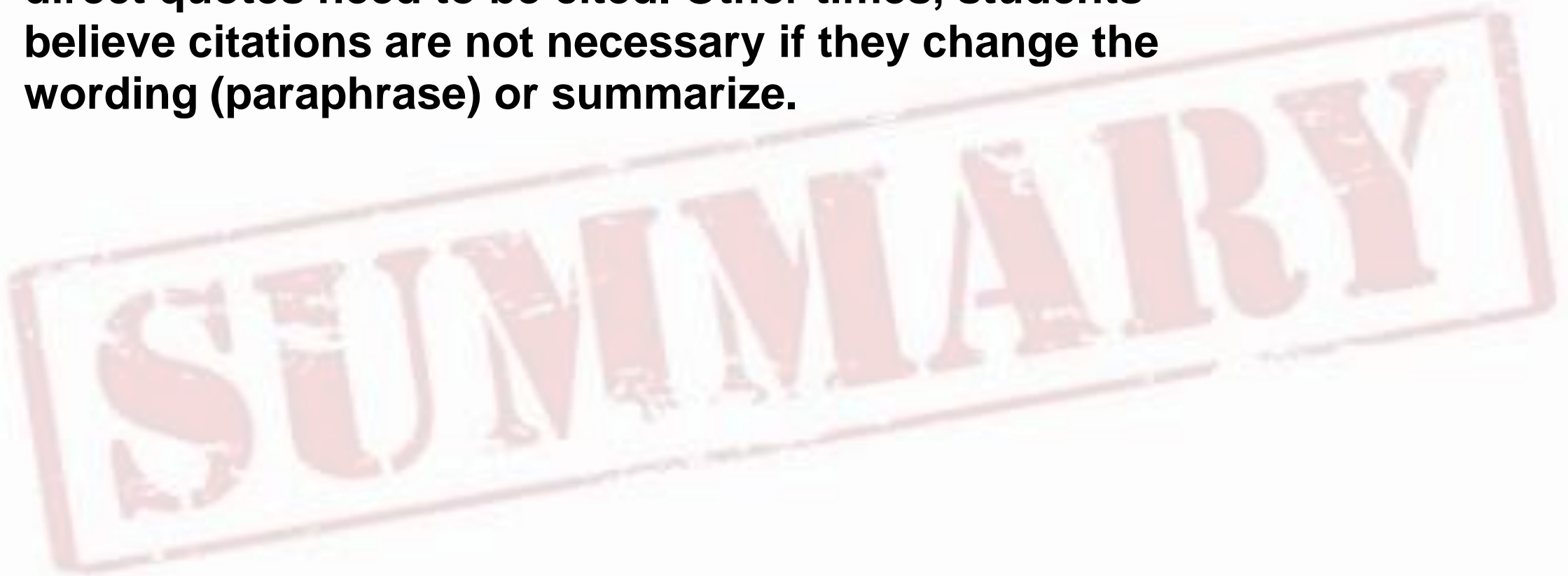
The image features three distinct clusters of balloons floating against a solid, clear blue sky. The balloons are in various colors including red, yellow, blue, white, orange, green, and purple. Each cluster is tied together with white string, and some have long, thin white streamers trailing behind them. The clusters are positioned in the upper left, lower left, and middle right areas of the frame.

Helium has the lowest boiling point among all the elements, and it is the most abundant element after hydrogen.



The wage-price spiral happens when job wages keep increasing to exceed the cost of living, which keeps increasing to exceed job wages to account for supply and demand.

Many times, students are under the impression that only direct quotes need to be cited. Other times, students believe citations are not necessary if they change the wording (paraphrase) or summarize.



Whether you write exactly what someone else wrote, or if you paraphrase or summarize someone else's information, you must give credit to the author.

Practice Identifying Plagiarism:
Let's determine whether the following
passages have been plagiarized.

Determining Plagiarism



Original text

“So much of modern-day life revolves around using opposable thumbs, from holding a hammer to build a home to ordering food delivery on our smartphones. But for our ancestors, the uses were much simpler. Strong and nimble thumbs meant that they could better create and wield tools, stones and bones for killing large animals for food” (Handwerk, 2021).

Paraphrased text

A lot of life today involves using opposable thumbs, from using a hammer to build a house to ordering something on our smartphones. But for our predecessors, the uses were much more simple. Powerful and dexterous thumbs meant that they could better make and use tools, stones and bones for killing large animals to eat.

Determining Plagiarism



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Correct paraphrasing

Opposable thumbs are such an **ingrained part of humans’** day-to-day life **that most do not pay them much notice. However, they could be a matter of life or death for our ancestors. Per Handwerk (2021),** opposable thumbs allowed earlier humans to survive and thrive, enhancing their ability to create tools and weapons to kill large animals.

Remember that paraphrasing doesn't just mean switching out a few words for **synonyms** while retaining the original sentence structure. The author's idea must be reformulated in a way that fits smoothly into **YOUR** text.

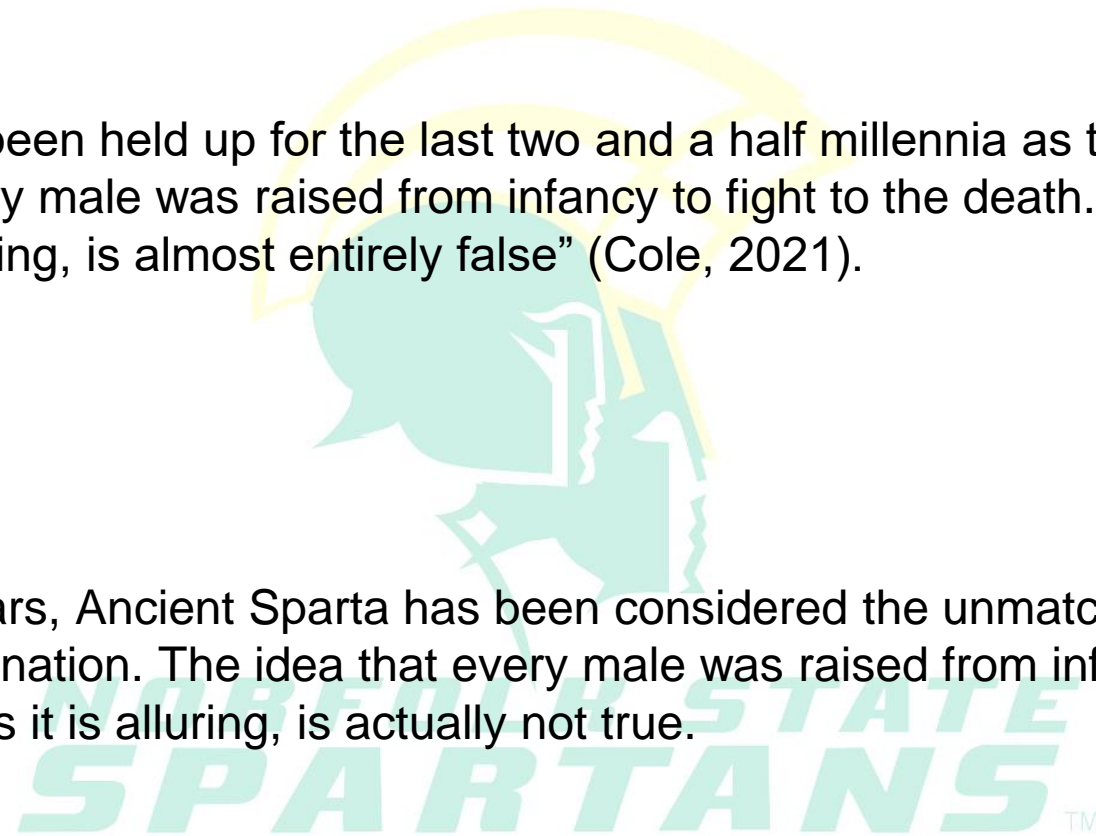
Determining

Original text

“Ancient Sparta has been held up for the last two and a half millennia as the unmatched warrior city-state, where every male was raised from infancy to fight to the death. This view, as ingrained as it is alluring, is almost entirely false” (Cole, 2021).

Paraphrased text

For the last 2,500 years, Ancient Sparta has been considered the unmatched warrior city-state in popular imagination. The idea that every male was raised from infancy to fight to the death, as ingrained as it is alluring, is actually not true.



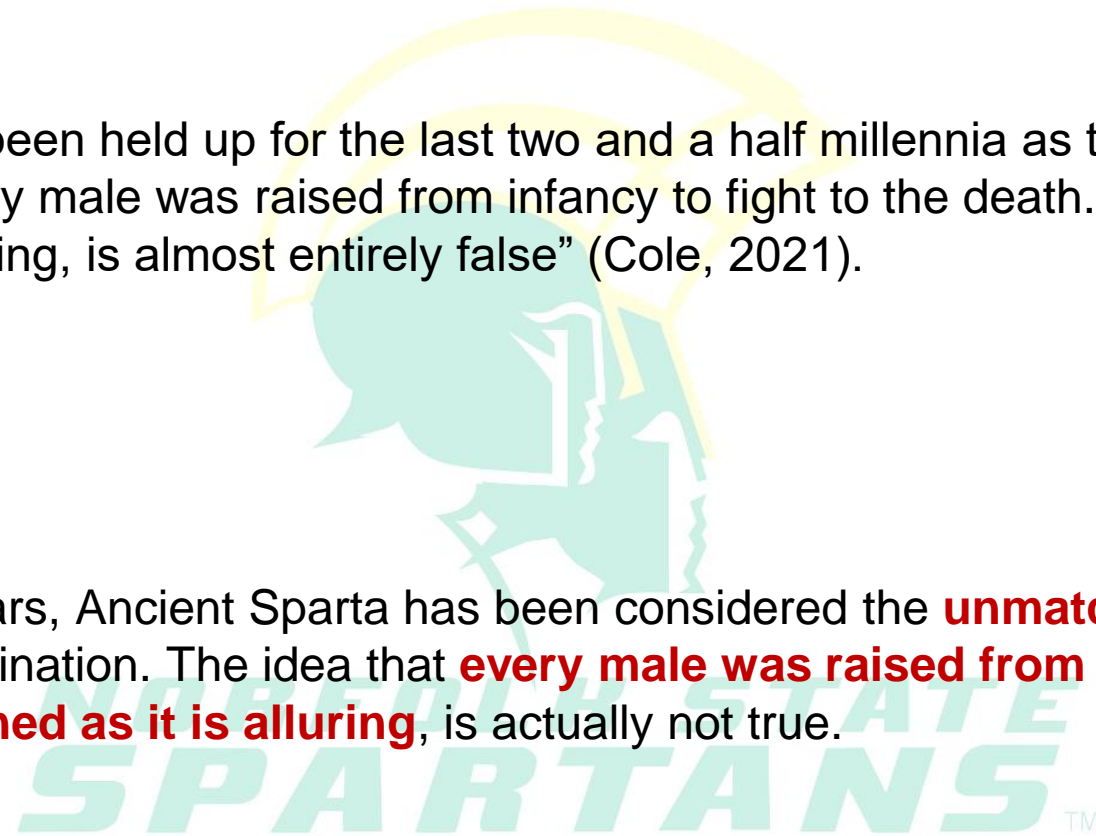
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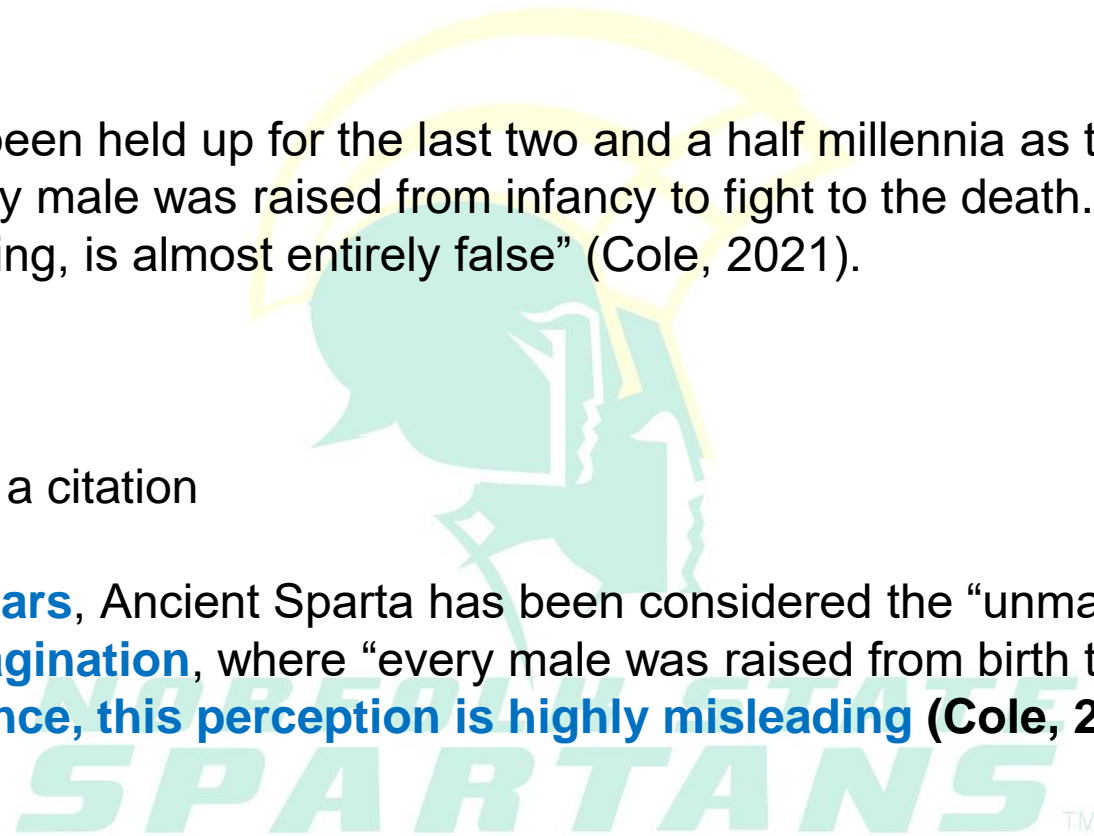
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Quoted correctly with a citation

For the last 2,500 years, Ancient Sparta has been considered the “unmatched warrior city-state” **in popular imagination**, where “every male was raised from birth to fight to the death.” **Despite its prominence, this perception is highly misleading (Cole, 2021).**



Determining Plagiarism

Original texts (3 sources)

“For many Americans, the eagle feather headdress is a generic symbol of Native America indivisible from the narrative of the wild west and cowboys and Indians” (Van Heuvelen, 2020).

“Americans have always remembered the battle. What we often forget are the difficult decisions tribal leaders made afterward to ensure the safety of their people” (Van Heuvelen, 2020).

“Under skies darkened by smoke, gunfire and flying arrows, 210 men of the U.S. Army’s 7th Cavalry Unit led by Lt. Colonel George Custer confronted thousands of Lakota Sioux and Northern Cheyenne warriors on June 25, 1876, near the Little Big Horn River in present-day Montana. The engagement was one in a series of battles and negotiations between Plains Indians and U.S. forces over control of Western territory, collectively known as the Sioux Wars” (McDermott, 2021).



Determining Plagiarism

Paraphrased text (from 3 sources)

For many Americans, the headdress is a well-known symbol of indigenous America indistinguishable from the narrative of the “wild west and cowboys and Indians.” One of the most famous examples of the cowboys versus Indians narrative is the Battle of Little Bighorn.

On June 25, 1876, 210 men of the U.S. Army’s 7th Cavalry Unit led by Lt. Colonel George Custer confronted thousands of Lakota Sioux and Northern Cheyenne warriors. Custer and his men were handily defeated, and Americans have always remembered the battle as “Custer’s Last Stand.” What is often forgotten is the difficult decisions tribal leaders made afterward to ensure the safety of their people.



Determining Plagiarism



Paraphrased text (from 3 sources)

For many Americans, the headdress is a well-known **symbol of indigenous America** indistinguishable from **the narrative of the “wild west and cowboys and Indians.”** One of the most famous examples of the cowboys versus Indians narrative is the Battle of Little Bighorn.

On June 25, 1876, **210 men of the U.S. Army’s 7th Cavalry Unit led by Lt. Colonel George Custer confronted thousands of Lakota Sioux and Northern Cheyenne warriors.** Custer and his men were handily defeated, and **Americans have always remembered the battle** as “Custer’s Last Stand.” What is often forgotten is **the difficult decisions tribal leaders made afterward to ensure the safety of their people.**

Determining Plagiarism



Correctly cited texts (from 3 sources)

The headdress is a well-known symbol of indigenous America, forming part of “the narrative of the wild west and cowboys and Indians” (Van Heuvelen, 2020). **One of the most famous examples of this narrative is the Battle of Little Bighorn.**

On June 25, 1876, Lt. Colonel George Custer led a unit of 210 men of the U.S. Army’s 7th Cavalry against thousands of Lakota Sioux and Northern Cheyenne warriors (McDermott, 2021). **Custer and his men were handily defeated**, and Americans have always remembered the battle as “**Custer’s Last Stand.**” However, **sometimes lost to history** are the “difficult decisions tribal leaders made afterward” in seeking to protect their people, **especially those most vulnerable** (Van Heuvelen, 2020).

Plagiarism Quiz:

Let's determine the difference between an acceptable use of a source and plagiarism.

<https://resources.library.lemoyne.edu/guides/academicintegrity/quiz-1>

REVIEW

To avoid plagiarism, ALWAYS cite information that you have paraphrased, summarized, or directly quoted from an original source.

Specialized information should be credited, even if the information is easily obtainable.

Use signal phrases to introduce your cited material to smooth out the prose.

Crediting your sources builds your ethos as a writer and researcher.

REFLECTION

Workshop Evaluation
for students



Workshop Evaluation
for faculty



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