Do I need a citation?

USE THIS DECISION TREE WHEN YOU ARE UNSURE IF YOU NEED A CITATION

- **Yes**
  - Did you use someone's exact words?
    - **Yes**: Cite it!
    - **No**: Did you paraphrase? (put someone else's ideas in your own words)
      - **Yes**: Cite it!
      - **No**: Don't cite it!

- **No**: Don't cite it! But you probably want to back it up with some evidence.
  - **Yes**: Is it your opinion?
    - **Yes**: Is it common knowledge?
      - **Yes**: Great job!
      - **No**: Are you still not sure whether you need a citation?
        - **Yes**: Cite it! Having a citation where one is not needed is better than not having one where it is needed.
        - **No**: Remember, you can always ask a librarian for help!