

A three-cornered dialogue

Student	Help! I don't know where to start.
LD	Let's think about mapping out some topic areas.
Librarian	You can also use these topic areas as keywords to search for information.
Student	I hadn't realised planning and searching was so connected until now!
Librarian	And look you can find information online, as well as in the library. Here's how ...
Student	Great! I've found some interesting stuff. Now what?
LD	Why not try making some notes.
Student	I never have time for that.
LD	Really good arguments often start at the note taking stage
Librarian	And recording the author, title and page number as you go along will help you with your referencing later.
Student	Just out of interest; why do I have to reference?
Librarian	Referencing is a way of acknowledging others' ideas
Student	So where's my voice in all of this?
LD	Well tell me how the information you've found responds to your essay title?
Student	So that's my view then?
LD	Yes. You're offering an analysis of the information you've found.
Librarian	And to acknowledge that properly you can cite it in the body of your essay
Student	Is that the date and bracket thing?
Librarian	Yes, that's a citation. You can put the full details of your author in the reference list at the end.
Student	Aha! I'm beginning to see how it all fits together now!