



Clarity

What is clarity?

Clarity simply means easy to perceive or understand.

Why is clarity important?

Clear language lessens the chance of misinterpretation, while vague language can lead to chaos and fatal errors. As George Orwell warned, some people use words, "in a consciously dishonest way. That is, the person who uses them has his own private definition, but allows his hearer to think he means something quite different."

How can you use clarity in your research?

1. **If a word or concept is unfamiliar or seems vague to you**, look up the definition in a highly credible source—not just the first news article you read.
2. **Read the entire context**, not just the surrounding sentence or two. Yes, that's more work, but it's worth the effort.
3. **If there's any uncertainty or a disconnect in logic, write to the author and ask them to explain.** This is much easier than it sounds because most scholars and serious authors have webpages with their email or a simple contact form. If they don't reply, find another source that's crystal clear.
4. **Don't use vague language and be vigilant to ask yourself**, "Can this be interpreted another way?"



REMEMBER the golden rule: Don't confuse others as you don't like being confused.