

Principles of Paleobiology

Term Paper

Term Paper - a major written assignment, typically due at the end of a semester or academic term, in which a student demonstrates their knowledge of a specific topic. It involves research, analysis, and the presentation of a student's understanding, and usually constitutes a significant portion of their grade.

Approved Topics (So Far)

- Aquatic Spinosaurus
- Arthropod Invasion of the Land
- Vertebrate Jaws
- Biases in Paleobiological Data
- Extinction of Rugosa & Tabulata
- Megafauna Extinctions
- Brachiopods & Bivalves

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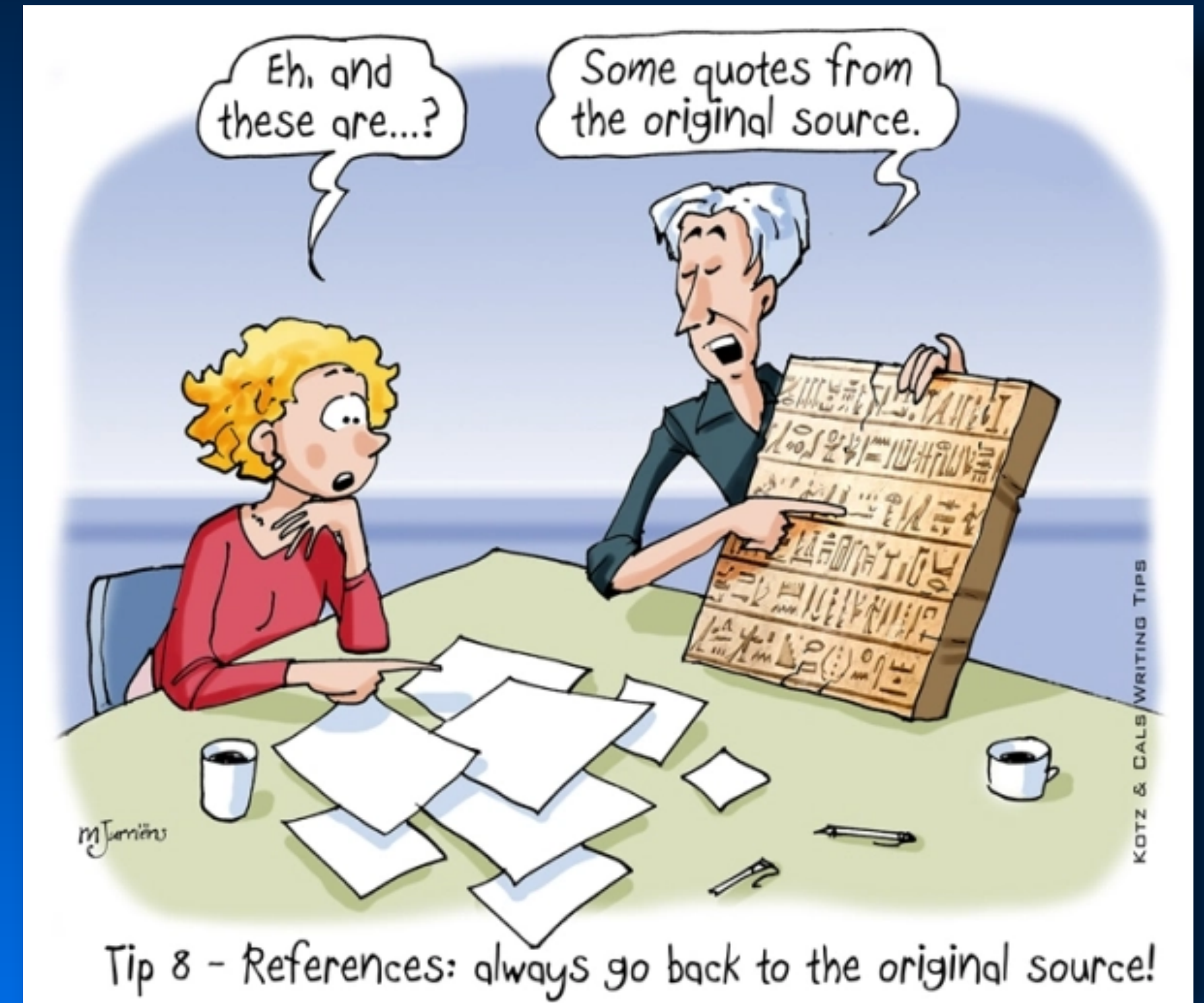
Term Paper

A brief review of the topic

- Explain topic's importance
- Identify relevant audience(s)
- State essay's objectives

Background

- Review history of previous research, thoughts, interpretations, speculations, controversies, etc.
- Identify issues underlying any controversies or disagreements



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Evaluation

- Organize in terms of data-driven hypothesis tests
- Describe the data that have been collected to date.
- Determine whether these data are sufficient.
- Determine which hypothesis(es), model(s) or explanation(s) are most consistent with the available data.
- Explain which hypothesis(es), model(s) or explanation(s) you support and state why.



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Summary

- Review your main points of agreement/disagreement with previous workers.
- Identify the strong points of their arguments.
- Identify the weak points of their arguments.
- Assess the maturity level of research into this topic.
- Identify any new data that could/should be collected that might help clarify understanding

