Citation and TOK essays

The principle behind referencing in the TOK essay is that the source should be traced.

Section D of the TOK essay assessment is to do with referencing. These are easy marks. It is just a matter of following procedure.

It does not matter which citation style you use as long as you are consistent within that particular style.

The following are comments about bibliographies and referencing within the essay 2008 TOK essays. The examiner’s response is in red.

Negative
• Some had no referencing or bibliography at all:
• Some had no in text referencing: “?source when making claim”
• Some cite incorrectly e.g. Website address only: “needs detail”
• Some had footnotes and no bibliography
• You cannot quote a person – in this case you would cite this as an interview: “not traceable sources”
• Aim to quote more than the textbook and Wikipedia

Plus
• Essays with correct citation got big ticks
• Essays with higher marks for the main body of text also had great bibliographies
• Remember that a bibliography shows the extent of your research

Refer to the IB Theory of Knowledge assessment exemplars in folders in the Reference Section of the library. These exemplars are also available online through STL.

Negative comments related to these exemplars
• “The ideas of Descartes and Plato do not count as common knowledge” and as a result need a reference.”
• “While precise links from appropriate points in the text to the bibliography are missing....”
• “The bibliography is adequate, but the footnote on page 2 does not appear in the bibliography......however referencing is less stringent than for the EE”.
• “A lack of citations is highly undesirable”

DO NOT THROW THESE MARKS AWAY!