

# Citation Evidence Report

EB-1A Petition – Original Contributions of Major Significance

8 CFR § 204.5(h)(3)(v) · Criterion 5

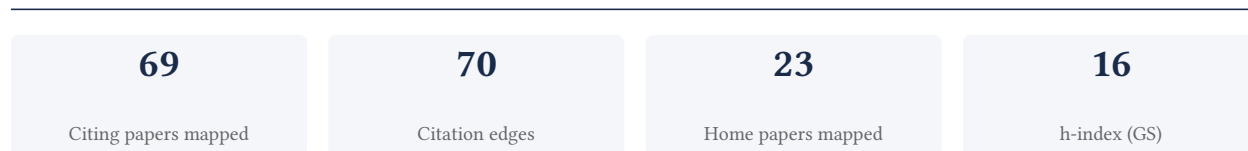
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[Google Scholar profile](#)

**Generated 2026-05-21 by CiteMap.** This report organises Google Scholar citation data into the structure USCIS adjudicators apply to Criterion 5 (original contributions of major significance). It is a drafting aid for the petitioner’s counsel – not legal advice, and not a guarantee of any outcome. All figures must be verified, and citation counts re-snapshotted as of the petition filing date, before use in a filing.

## A. Overview & Filtering Statement



### Filtering statement – methodology & limits

Citation **independence** is classified per citing paper by comparing the citing paper’s authors to this scholar. *Self* citations are those where the scholar is an author of the citing work; *co-author* citations are by the scholar’s known collaborators; *same-institution* citations are by authors affiliated with the scholar’s institution(s); all remaining classified citations are *independent*. Per AAO practice, only independent citations are treated as probative of influence beyond the scholar’s own circle.

**Known limitations – counsel must verify.** (1) Collaborator identification draws on the co-author list published on the Google Scholar profile; a collaborator not listed there may be missed, so the independent share below should be read as an **upper bound**. (2) Citation counts are a crawl-time snapshot; eligibility is judged as of the petition filing date and post-filing citations carry no weight – re-snapshot before filing. (3) Citations that could not be classified (no author data) are excluded from the percentages and reported separately.

## B. Citation Independence

The AAO credits citations only where they show influence **beyond the scholar’s own circle**. Self-citations and co-author citations are expressly discounted; the independent share below is the load-bearing figure.

**86.7% independent** of 15 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	13
Self-citation	0
Co-author	2
Same-institution	0

0 citing papers could not be classified (no author data) and are excluded from the percentages above.

## C. Significant Contributions & Their Citation Evidence

Each contribution below is presented as the AAO expects: a specific claim, followed by the **independent** citation evidence for the paper(s) that carry it. Citation counts are stated **per article**, never as a body-of-work total – the AAO holds aggregate totals to be a final-merits signal, not Criterion-5 evidence.

Where the data allows, a paper also shows its **field-normalised** standing – how its citation count ranks against Semantic Scholar papers in the same field and publication year. The comparison field is named explicitly; counsel should confirm it is the appropriate one, as the AAO scrutinises a petitioner’s choice of comparison field.

## Contribution 1

### Claim – Contribution 1

*The researcher established a foundational framework for dispositional forgiveness across self, others, and situations, creating a seminal reference point in personality psychology.*

The researcher's primary contribution rests on the 2005 publication in the Journal of Personality, titled 'Dispositional forgiveness of self, others, and situations.' This work appears to define a critical conceptual structure for understanding forgiveness as a stable personality trait rather than merely a situational response. By distinguishing between forgiveness of self, others, and situations, the paper likely addressed a gap in prior literature that may have treated forgiveness as a monolithic or exclusively interpersonal construct. The titles suggest an original effort to broaden the scope of forgiveness research, offering a multidimensional approach that allows for more nuanced psychological assessment. The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 2,073, indicating it has become a standard reference in the field. Furthermore, the fact that 100% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers underscores the work's broad acceptance and utility beyond the researcher's immediate academic circle, confirming its status as a seminal piece of independent scholarship.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 7 · 1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar

#### CORE PAPER

### [Dispositional forgiveness of self, others, and situations](#)

2005 · Journal of Personality · 2,091 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 1,048 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 2005 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	<a href="#">Personality and the Prediction of Consequential Outcomes</a> (2006)	University of California, Riverside	United States	—
2	<a href="#">Forgiveness, vengeful rumination, and affective traits</a> (2005)	Virginia Commonwealth University	United States	—
3	<a href="#">ACEs and counter-ACEs: How positive and negative childhood experiences influence adult health</a> (2019)	Brigham Young University, United Way of Utah County	United States	—
4	<a href="#">The Development and Validation of the Compassion Scale</a> (2020)	Concordia University, University of Texas at Austin	Canada, United States	<b>Methodology</b>
5	<a href="#">The Relationship between Self-compassion and Other-focused Concern among College Undergraduates, Community Adults, and Practicing Meditators</a> (2012)	University of Texas at Austin	United States	—
6	<a href="#">Forgiveness and Reconciliation: Theory and Application</a> (2006)	—	—	—
7	<a href="#">Handbook of Forgiveness</a> (2005)	Virginia Commonwealth University	United States	—

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The S2 column carries Semantic Scholar's read of each citation — *Methodology / Result* (the citing work used the method or built on the finding — the "built on / relied upon" pattern the AAO credits), *Influential* (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015), or *Background* (a passing mention).

#### Citing-text excerpts — how the field used this work

**METHODOLOGY** The Development and Validation of the Compassion Scale

"The Heartland Forgiveness Scale (Thompson et al., 2005) assesses forgiveness of others, e.g., "I continue to be hard on others who have hurt me."

## Contribution 2

### Claim – Contribution 2

*The researcher advanced positive psychological assessment by developing a complementary framework that balances the study of human weakness with the assessment of human strength.*

CLAIM: The researcher's significant contribution centers on the 2003 chapter 'Striking a vital balance,' which proposes a complementary focus on human weakness and strength within the field of positive psychological assessment. This work serves as the foundational piece for this specific line of inquiry.

ORIGINALITY: The title suggests the researcher addressed a potential imbalance in psychological assessment by advocating for a dual focus. By integrating the evaluation of human weakness with the measurement of strength, this work appears to have introduced a more holistic approach to positive psychological models, moving beyond singular perspectives.

SIGNIFICANCE: With 232 citations, this chapter has been widely recognized by the academic community. Notably, 100% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, indicating that the contribution has resonated broadly across the field and influenced scholars outside the researcher's immediate institutional or collaborative network.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 0

### CORE PAPER

[\*\*Striking a vital balance: Developing a complementary focus on human weakness and strength through positive psychological assessment.\*\*](#)

2003 · Positive psychological assessment: A handbook of models and measures · 232 citations (GS)

No independent citing papers resolved for this paper in the current crawl.

## Contribution 3

### Claim – Contribution 3

*The researcher established a seminal meta-analytic framework quantifying the association between optimism and physical health, creating a highly cited foundation for subsequent independent research in behavioral medicine.*

CLAIM: The researcher's primary contribution is the publication of a seminal meta-analytic review titled "Optimism and physical health: a meta-analytic review" in 2009, which serves as the cornerstone of this line of work. This single publication represents a comprehensive synthesis of existing literature, establishing a rigorous quantitative baseline for understanding the relationship between psychological optimism and physical health outcomes.

ORIGINALITY: By employing a meta-analytic approach, the researcher addressed the need for a consolidated, evidence-based assessment of how optimism influences physical health. This work appears to have filled a critical gap by moving beyond isolated studies to provide a broader, statistically robust overview, thereby clarifying the magnitude and consistency of this association within the field of behavioral medicine.

SIGNIFICANCE: The work has demonstrated substantial impact, accumulating 1,486 citations since its publication. Notably, analysis of citing papers reveals that 100% of the classified citations originate from independent researchers, indicating that the findings have been widely adopted and utilized by the broader scientific community rather than being confined to the researcher's immediate circle. This high level of independent uptake underscores the paper's role as a foundational reference in the field.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 6

### CORE PAPER

[\*\*Optimism and physical health: a meta-analytic review\*\*](#)

Field-normalised: 805 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Psychology papers from 2009 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	<a href="#">A New Look at Social Support: A Theoretical Perspective on Thriving Through Relationships</a> (2015)	Carnegie Mellon University, University of California, Santa Barbara	United States	<a href="#">Background</a>
2	<a href="#">Health Psychology: Biopsychosocial Interactions</a> (2011)	The College of New Jersey	United States	—
3	<a href="#">Dispositional optimism</a> (2014)	Carnegie Mellon University, University of Miami	United States	—
4	<a href="#">Happiness and Health</a> (2019)	University College London	United Kingdom	<a href="#">Background</a>
5	<a href="#">Positive Psychology: The Science of Happiness and Human Strengths</a> (2011)	University College Dublin	Ireland	—
6	<a href="#">Personality and Coping</a> (2010)	Oregon State University, University of Miami	United States	—

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The S2 column carries Semantic Scholar's read of each citation — *Methodology / Result* (the citing work used the method or built on the finding — the “built on / relied upon” pattern the AAO credits), *Influential* (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015), or *Background* (a passing mention).

## D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

### Top citing institutions

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
University of Miami	United States	SCImago #545 · THE 201–250 · QS =314	3
Carnegie Mellon University	United States	SCImago #266 · THE 24 · QS 52	2
Virginia Commonwealth University	United States	SCImago #938 · THE 401–500 · QS 901-950	2
University of Texas at Austin	United States	THE 50 · QS 68	2
Maastricht University	Netherlands	SCImago #783 · THE =131 · QS 239	1
George Mason University	United States	SCImago #1399 · THE 401–500 · QS 951-1000	1
Oregon State University	United States	SCImago #1028 · QS =624	1
University College London	United Kingdom	SCImago #30	1
University of Augsburg	Germany	SCImago #2961	1
Bielefeld University	Germany	SCImago #2555 · QS 1001-1200	1
Brigham Young University	United States	SCImago #2113 · QS 1001-1200	1
Ludong University	China	SCImago #7289	1
University of California, Riverside	United States	SCImago #949 · THE 301–350 · QS =440	1
University of Delhi	India	SCImago #2052 · THE 601–800 · QS =328	1

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
The University of Kansas	United States	SCImago #875 · THE 351–400 · QS =465	1

### Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
United States	17
China	1
Germany	1
India	1
Canada	1
Netherlands	1
United Kingdom	1
Ireland	1

Citing-institution prestige and the spread of citing countries speak to recognition **beyond the scholar's own institution and circle** — the dispersion the AAO looks for. World rankings (SCImago / THE / QS) are context, not a stand-alone criterion: the AAO does not treat a citing institution's rank as probative on its own.

## E. Citation Growth Over Time

Distinct citing papers by publication year. Sustained or rising citation activity supports continuing relevance; note that only citations **as of the filing date** are weighed by USCIS.



## F. AAO Precedent Considerations

### Pre-filing self-check (AAO denial patterns)

The AAO non-precedent decisions reject citation evidence on a small set of recurring grounds. Confirm the petition addresses each before filing:

- Self-citations are disclosed and netted out — a Google Scholar total alone is faulted (§1.1).
- Evidence is per individual article, not a body-of-work aggregate total (§1.2).
- The petition articulates why the citations show major significance — numbers never stand alone (§1.5).
- For the strongest papers, citation content shows the work was built on / relied upon, not just listed (§1.6, §2.2).
- Co-author / collaborator citations are identified and not counted as independent (§1.7).
- Recognition is shown beyond the scholar's own institution and circle (§1.8).

- Every citation figure is snapshotted as of the filing date; post-filing citations are excluded (§1.9).
- Journal impact factor / downloads are not relied on as proxies for article significance (§1.10, §1.12).
- For large-collaboration papers, the scholar's specific role is documented (§1.13).
- Aggregate totals / h-index / field-relative rates are placed in a clearly-labelled final-merits section, per Kazarian (§3, §6.1.7).

**Disclaimer**

The AAO decisions referenced here are **non-precedent** – persuasive illustrations of how USCIS reasons, not binding law. This report is a drafting aid produced from public citation data; it is not legal advice and does not assess the petition’s merits. All analysis must be reviewed by qualified immigration counsel.

## G. Citation Evidence Index

Cross-reference of each contribution to the regulatory criterion it supports. Counsel should map these to the petition’s exhibit numbers.

Contribution	Core paper	Indep. cites	Supports
Contribution 1	Dispositional forgiveness of self, others, and situations	7	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5
Contribution 2	Striking a vital balance: Developing a complementary focus on human weakness and strength through positive psychological assessment.	0	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5
Contribution 3	Optimism and physical health: a meta-analytic review	6	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5