

## Avoiding Plagiarism

**Plagiarism** is using exact ideas, sentences or phrases written by another person, without giving the original author due credit. When writing any sort of paper, the ideas, sentences and phrases of others included should be appropriately cited. Material taken directly from a source should be in quotation marks within the text, followed by the author's name and the page number. Ideas or facts taken from a source—even when not directly quoted—must be cited.

**Plagiarism** is submitting another person's work as though it were your own; plagiarism is an academic offense and can result in failure on a project or in a course.

### An Example of a Citation:

*"Domestic and international events made it possible for the Bolivian government to come to terms with Standard Oil and thus be able to participate in the benefits of economic assistance from the United States" (Blaster 87).*

**Also**, this source must be listed in a bibliography, works cited, or references page (usually the last page of the paper), and would appear as such:]

Author's Name (Last, First). *Title of Book*. Place of Publication: Name of the Press or Publishing Company, Year of publication.

For example, the above citation would appear as:

Blaster, Cole. *The Hovering Giant*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1985. \*

**It is important to acknowledge when a citation is required;  
Direct quotes and paraphrases MUST be cited!**

\*Cited in MLA format according to *The MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing*. Second Ed. Modern Language Association of America, NY, 1998.

## **Paraphrasing**

**Paraphrasing** is taking the *main ideas* of someone else's work (i.e.. book, article, etc..) and putting the material into **your own words**. Another example of paraphrasing is the use of statistics within a paper.

Unlike direct quotes, paraphrasing does **not** require quotation marks; an adequate citation of a paraphrase appears at the end of the paraphrased material in parentheses. Usually the author's name and page number is sufficient.

For example, a February 1978 issue of *National Geographic* reads:

*“Rio has spectacular parks and museums. A botanical garden nourishes 5,000 varieties of plants, including pau-brasil, the tree from which brazil wood comes, and which gave this nation its name in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. But varieties of human life provide its most animated spectacle. At high noon or at midnight, sports enthusiasts play, on beach and court, games of volleyball, tennis, and—inevitably—soccer.”*

*You could paraphrase the above to read:*

There are many wonderful things to see and do in Rio: there are magnificent gardens, plants and trees to enjoy, parks and museums to visit, many sports to play, and interesting people to meet... (McDonnell pg. 246).

This citation would appear in the References page as:

McDonnell, Bart. “Brazil's Golden Beachhead.” *National Geographic*. February, 1978.

### **To Avoid Plagiarism:**

- Cite everything you did not think of or write yourself.
- Cite statistics, numbers and ratios.
- Paraphrase by putting the author's main ideas into your own words

#### **Web sites to visit:**

<http://perth.uwlax.edu/MurphyLibrary/research/plagiarism.html>

- <http://sja.ucdavis.edu/files/plagiarism.pdf>

#### **University Library Guides:**

- APA Publication Guide (<http://www.lib.umassd.edu/get/apaguide.pdf> )
- MLA Citation Guide (<http://www.lib.umassd.edu/get/mla.pdf> )

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