

Plagiarism and How to Avoid It

What is Plagiarism?

Simply put, plagiarism is using someone else's words, thoughts, ideas, images, or inventions and either:

- 1) Assuming them as your own or
- 2) Not giving credit to the source of the ideas and expressions.

What are the Forms of Plagiarism?

Plagiarism can be broken into three forms:

- 1) Quoting
- 2) Paraphrasing
- 3) Idea Use

Quoting occurs when you submit word-for-word an author's work as your own. **Examples:**

Original Source:

National Seminars Publications (1992). *How to Manage Conflict*. Shawnee Mission, KS:
Author.

Conflict does not alter this management philosophy. In fact, conflict calls for the most deliberate and strategic actions you make as a manager.

Example A:

Conflict does not alter this management philosophy. In fact, conflict calls for the most deliberate and strategic actions you make as a manager.

This is plagiarism. It appears that this author is using this text as his own words without giving credit to the source in the form of quotation marks or an in-text citation.

Example B:

According to National Seminars Publications, "Conflict does not alter this management philosophy. In fact, conflict calls for the most deliberate and strategic actions you make as a manager" (1992, pg. 28).

This is the appropriate use of a direct quote from a source. The writer cites the author, publication date and page number of the publication and places the quote within quotation marks.

Paraphrasing occurs when you submit work which takes the central idea or theme intact, but change several words or phrases to obscure its origin. **Examples:**

Original Source:

Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research (2000). *Mayo Clinic on Healthy Weight*. New York:
Kensington Publishing Corporation.

The simplest explanation for why Americans are getting heavier is that we have too many machines that move for us, such as elevators and cars and remote controls, and we eat too many rich foods. But it's not just rich foods, it's unhealthy foods.

Example A:

Americans are getting heavier because we have too many machines that move for us, like elevators or remote controls, and we eat many rich and unhealthy foods.

This is plagiarism. Too many phrases are directly replicated from the original source, and no citation is provided to credit the author of the original text.

Example B:

The increased use of technology and automated processes, combined with the unhealthy balance of high-sugar foods that contain little nutritional value, result in a population of overweight, unhealthy citizens (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research, 2000, pg. 9).

This is an example of good paraphrasing. The researcher rewrites and rewords the information from the source, but also gives credit to the original author because he is using their idea.

Idea Use occurs when you have fully or partially taken someone’s idea or organization of thoughts. This type of plagiarism ranges from **copying another person’s paper or project** to **using artwork without permission**. **Examples:**

Original Source

■ Paintings : French Painting



Alexander in Babylon

Alexander, standing in a chariot driving through the city of Babylon; in the background, one can see the city's walls and towers.

Description

A grand subject, a lofty style

Example A



Alexander expected a large war upon his entrance into Babylon.

Example B



(le Brun, *Alexander in Babylon*, 1665)

Alexander expected a large war upon his entrance into Babylon.

Louvre (1996). Paintings: French Paintings. Retrieved March 1, 2006 from <http://tinyurl.com/rkk85>.

This image was copied and pasted into a document from the Louvre Museum website. Note that the writer does not give a citation for the image in **Example A**. This is an example of plagiarism because he or she did not give credit to the original artistic idea. In **Example B**, a citation is provided and therefore the image is used correctly.

How can you Avoid Plagiarism?

- ⇒ Use your own words and ideas.
- ⇒ Give credit where credit is due for copied, adapted, or paraphrased material, including images.
- ⇒ Avoid using someone else’s work with only “minor cosmetic changes”
- ⇒ Don’t purchase or use papers from classmates or off the Internet.
- ⇒ Don’t “upgrade” papers from one class to the next.
- ⇒ Understand proper citation style. See your librarian for an APA guide or for assistance with citations.

For More Information:

- ⇒ <http://sja.ucdavis.edu/avoid.htm#guidelines>
- ⇒ http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_plagiar.html
- ⇒ <http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml>
- ⇒ http://www.writing.nwu.edu/avoiding_plagiarism.html