



Avoiding Plagiarism

Don't Be an Idea Thief

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Plagiarism is the unacknowledged reproduction of another person's ideas, information, or work.

Basically, it is taking information from another source and claiming it as your own.

Plagiarism is theft of intellectual property.

There Are Two Common Acts of Plagiarism to Avoid:

- failing to cite quotations and borrowed ideas
- failing to enclose borrowed language in quotation marks

Failing to Cite:



When failing to cite quotes, you're claiming that words or ideas borrowed from someone else are your own.

- To cite quotations correctly, give the author's name in a *signal phrase* or in *parenthetical documentation* at the end of the quote.
- If there is no author name, then you can use a part of the title of the source.

Failing to Enclose:



Failing to enclose borrowed language in quotation marks is still plagiarism if you've used the author's exact words and not enclosed them in quotes.

- Even if you provide documentation, by not using quotes, you're taking the author's exact words and claiming them as your own.
- You're giving the author credit for her idea, but not for her words.

When using exact language, put quotation marks around the borrowed info, and parenthetical documentation after it.

“Moreover, statistics can be deceiving: the growth of jobs in the US in the 90s was due to many part-time jobs, with no benefits and generally low pay” (Korten 17).

Jay Korten of Smithington Capital Group claims, “Moreover, statistics can be deceiving: the growth of jobs in the US in the 90s was due to many part-time jobs, with no benefits and generally low pay” (17).

When summarizing, omit quotation marks, but still put parenthetical documentation after it.

Job growth in the last decade of the 20th century was complicated by part-time workers’ benefits and salaries (Korten 17).

So you always provide documentation, but it's up to you to decide if you want to use the author's exact words, or if you want to paraphrase.

correct:

“I could ask the Phillies to keep me on to add to my statistics, but my love for the game won't let me do that” (Schmidt 42).

wrong (not paraphrased - plagiarized):

Mike Schmidt could have asked the Phillies to keep him on to add to his statistics, but his love for the game wouldn't let him do that (42).

correctly rephrased and cited:

Mike Schmidt had a love for baseball that wouldn't allow him to remain on a team just to pad his stats (42).

you can see here that the author's name was used in the summary, so only the page number needs to be listed in the citation.

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