

AVOIDING PLAGIARISM

APA VERSION

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Opening statement

This set of slides is called “Avoiding Plagiarism.”

But really, these slides are equally about

avoiding plagiarism

(including how to give proper credit)

and

understanding paraphrasing.

What is Plagiarism?

“The practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own”

(Oxford Dictionaries/googled definition)

mundane topic

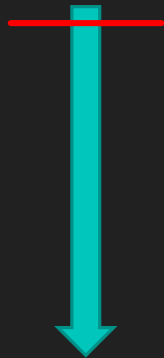
source of stress

PLAGIARISM

Ambitious goal:

Probably you are at the red lines?
The goal is for you to move down
each arrow...

mundane topic



interesting and
relevant topic!

source of stress



a topic you feel
comfortable
navigating

PLAGIARISM

Topics to cover

1. A better definition of plagiarism; definitions of other common terms
2. Types of plagiarism
3. Consequences of plagiarism
4. Ways to avoid plagiarism
 - a. as you collect information and prepare for writing
 - b. as you draft a paper/in your writing
5. Some examples and practice

A better definition of plagiarism

“Plagiarism is using someone else’s ideas or words without giving them proper credit.”


(Purdue OWL)

[Plagiarism Overview // Purdue Writing Lab](#)

A better definition of plagiarism

“Plagiarism is **using someone else’s ideas or words without giving them proper credit.**”

(Purdue OWL)



So one important part of avoiding plagiarism (that is totally possible to do!) is about giving proper credit.

Other definitions: a source

A source—when talking about writing researched papers, a source is any article/book/interviewee/website/text from which one can obtain information or ideas. Important information about a source includes:

- the author(s)
- the title (including the title of specific articles/webpages and the larger “container” it is in—book/journal/website)
- publication information, including vol #, pages, URL or DOI.

Other definitions: citation

Citation—when talking about writing researched papers, citation refers to giving proper credit to a source for information that is included in one's writing. In APA format, in-text citation requires providing the author's name and the year of publication. Sometimes it is also required or advised to include the page number where the information is located. Sometimes citation is referred to as attribution.

citation = giving proper credit = attribution

Types of plagiarism

Intentional	Unintentional/ accidental plagiarism
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="117 658 880 876">a. copying and pasting sentences or passages from another paper without giving credit<li data-bbox="117 908 865 1126">b. paraphrasing/using another author's ideas without citing/giving credit	<p data-bbox="1070 668 1595 829">incorrectly citing source material</p>

Self-plagiarism—reusing assignments/your own written work when not authorized

Consequences of plagiarism

- Required remediation/intervention program
- Failing grade for an assignment
- Failing grade for a course
- Notation on academic record school
- Dismissal/expulsion from school

- Poor impression
- Litigation workplace
- Loss of a job

All throughout the process of researching and drafting a writing assignment, there are things you can do to avoid plagiarism.

Ways to avoid plagiarism

You can think about avoiding plagiarism

- a. as you collect information and prepare for writing
- b. as you draft a paper/in your writing

Ways to avoid plagiarism

as you collect information and prepare for writing

1. As you read, take appropriately detailed notes. Make sure you understand what you are reading!
2. Some ways to take notes (and relay information in your writing) are to paraphrase OR quote directly from a source. Write down the author's name with your notes. (Remind yourself who gets credit for that info or idea.)
3. If you quote directly, be sure to put those passages in quotation marks, even in your notes.

Ways to avoid plagiarism

as you draft a paper/in your writing

As previously stated...

If there is something (information, ideas) in a source/something you read that you want to use in your own writing, you can present it as **a direct quote or a paraphrase.**

Ways to avoid plagiarism

as you draft a paper/in your writing

Two methods for incorporating source material
into your writing

1. **Directly quoting**: same exact words, same meaning as material you are using
2. **Paraphrasing**: different wording, but SAME meaning as material you are using. Convey the key information and ideas with your own wording and sentence structure. You might condense one large piece of material into a smaller passage, for ex, one article → a few sentences that cover the main points.

Ways to avoid plagiarism

as you draft a paper/in your writing

When **directly quoting** may be more effective:

- Original passage has technical language and you are worried that if you rephrase the passage, you will lose some of the meaning
- Original passage contains distinctive or catchy wording—why change a good thing?

Ways to avoid plagiarism

as you draft a paper/in your writing

1. **Direct quotes vs paraphrases:** in APA style, **paraphrases** are used more often than direct quotes.
2. Providing a direct quote or paraphrase properly simply requires three steps of attribution (this is the “giving credit” part)...

Ways to avoid plagiarism

as you draft a paper/in your writing

Remember this definition?

“Plagiarism is using someone else’s ideas or words
without giving them proper credit.”
(Purdue OWL)



Ways to avoid plagiarism

as you draft a paper/in your writing

“Plagiarism is using someone else’s ideas or words
without giving them proper credit.”

(Purdue OWL)



You can avoid plagiarism **by**
giving proper credit!

But how is that
done?...

Ways to avoid plagiarism

as you draft a paper/in your writing

Attribution involves three elements:

1. A **signal phrase** (sometimes also called a **tag**) is something like “According to Chen Li...” or “Li concluded”
2. An **in-text citation** will look like (Li, 2020) or (Li, 2020, p. 8)
3. A **bibliographic citation** will be included on the References page.

It will look like this:

Li, C. (2020). Best practices to avoid plagiarism. *Journal of Basic Writing*, 42(1), pp. 4-12. [include DOI here if this is an electronic source].

Adapted from Common Knowledge & Attribution // Purdue Writing Lab

Ways to avoid plagiarism

as you draft a paper/in your writing

Example of direct quote with proper attribution:

Flores et al. (2018) wrote, “Throughout the research process, we attended to the ways in which our privileged and oppressed identities may have influenced the research process, findings, and presentation of results” (p. 311).

Notice that in APA format the verb in the signal phrase/tag is in PAST tense.

Ways to avoid plagiarism

as you draft a paper/in your writing

- Most of the time, you will probably **paraphrase** to incorporate source info into your writing.
- Paraphrasing is a straightforward concept...that takes practice to master.
- It is **one of the most important skills** to work on in your writing.

IMPORTANT

PARAPHRASING is
a straightforward concept...
that takes practice to master.

IMPORTANT

PARAPHRASING is
one of the most important skills
to work on in your writing.

Ways to avoid plagiarism

As you draft a paper/in your writing

Paraphrasing: why so straightforward...yet **so difficult to master?**

1. Paraphrasing should go beyond replacing some words with their synonyms.
2. You should carefully read each article, fully understand it, and then convey the same idea with your own words. Be sure you are not changing or adding to the meaning of the original passage!
3. When paraphrasing, you **STILL** have to **CITE** the source of the material being paraphrased. (Attribution = signal phrase/tag, in-text citation, and bibliographic entry)

Big Question

Why do we even have to worry about all of this?

Answer

Why do we even have to worry about all of this?

Because at this level, your task in writing is not merely to regurgitate. Your task is to

- a. identify a purpose/audience in writing,
- b. seek out the needed information, and
- c. present that information in an expected format, all the while giving credit where credit is due.

More...

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- a. identify a purpose/audience in writing,
- b. seek out the needed information, and
- c. present that information in an expected format, all the while giving credit where credit is due.

Presenting this information will involve a whole lotta paraphrasing (and maybe some directly quoting).

Example of paraphrasing

ORIGINAL: Students frequently overuse direct quotation in taking notes, and as a result they overuse quotations in the final [research] paper. Probably only about 10% of your final manuscript should appear as directly quoted matter. Therefore, you should strive to limit the amount of exact transcribing of source materials while taking notes.

from Lester, J. D. (1976). *Writing research papers*. Pearson.

[Paraphrasing // Purdue Writing Lab](#)

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from Lester, J. D. (1976). *Writing research papers*. Pearson.

ACCEPTABLE PARAPHRASE: Lester (1976) pointed out that in research papers, students often quote excessively, failing to keep quoted material down to a desirable level. He added that since the problem usually originates during note taking, it is essential to minimize the material recorded verbatim.

Adapted from [Paraphrasing // Purdue Writing Lab](#)

Practice. You try it!

Paraphrase the idea of this sentence and give proper attribution in APA format:

“Many students feel they need not be attentive in their math lectures because their careers will not make use of complex math skills.”

Author: JoAnna Marley

Publication date: 2020

Page number: 359

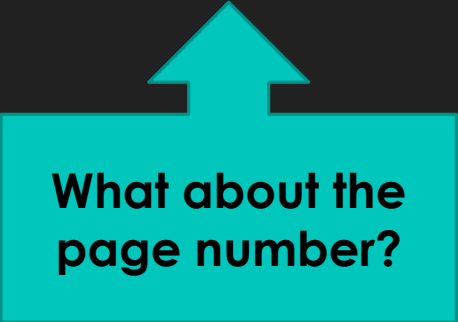
Title: *Students in School*

An acceptable paraphrase

There is more than one way to paraphrase an idea!

Here is one acceptable paraphrase:

Students don't think they will use math in their future careers, so many don't pay attention during math class (Marley, 2020).



What about the page number?

Notes about the paraphrase

Students don't think they will use math in their future careers, so many don't pay attention during math class (Marley, 2020).

For parenthetical citations when paraphrasing, include the author's name and date in parentheses at the end of the sentence, but before the period. The period always goes very last.

For paraphrases, **the page number is not required**. Only give it if you think it will be helpful for the reader.

One more point about paraphrasing

Do not include your own opinions in your paraphrased sentences. You can provide your opinions in the sentences that follow the paraphrased information. Just ensure that any added opinions are appropriate for the writing occasion and are written with the necessary level of formality.

Unacceptable versions of a paraphrase

Original text from a source: Many students feel they need not be attentive in their math lectures because their careers will not make use of complex math skills.

Unacceptable paraphrases (because an opinion has been added by the student writer):

It's obvious that students don't think they will use math in their future careers, so many don't pay attention during math class (Marley, 2020).

Even though it's not true that math will not be needed in many career fields, many students don't think they will use math in their future careers, so they don't pay attention during math class (Marley, 2020).

Two methods for citation of paraphrases

Parenthetical

Self-care is an essential topic for all students (Santerra, 2017).

Narrative

Santerra (2017) pointed out how self-care is an essential topic for all students.

Long paraphrases and proper attribution

Look at this previously presented paraphrase from Slide 31. Notice that this paraphrase is more than one sentence. In APA format, **one should cite the source of the work on first mention (with the first sentence)**. There is **no need to repeat the citation as long as you make it clear that you are still talking about that source.**

ACCEPTABLE LONG PARAPHRASE AND PROPER ATTRIBUTION TO THE SOURCE: Lester (1976) pointed out that in research papers, students often quote excessively, failing to keep quoted material down to a desirable level. He added that since the problem usually originates during note taking, it is essential to minimize the material recorded verbatim.

Review

Ways to avoid plagiarism:

- 1. Make sure you understand what you are reading! Take appropriately detailed notes.**
- 2. Write down the author's name with your notes. (Remind yourself who gets credit for that info or idea.)**
- 3. If you quote directly, be sure to put those passages in quotation marks, even in your notes.**
- 4. Practice effective paraphrasing and proper citation methods for giving a source credit.**

An excellent point

An excellent point from our good friends at Purdue OWL:

“Plagiarism is a serious offense in the academic world. However, we acknowledge that plagiarism is a difficult term to define; that its definition may be contextually sensitive; and that not all instances of plagiarism are created equal—that is, there are varying ‘degrees of egregiousness’ for different cases of plagiarism.”

Paraphrasing // Purdue Writing Lab

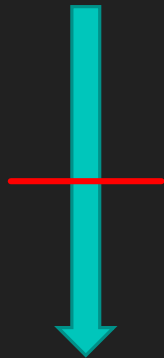
One more resource

Academic Integrity at ISU

[Academic Integrity | Indiana State University \(indstate.edu\)](https://www.indstate.edu/academic-integrity)

Ambitious goal...met?

mundane topic



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PLAGIARISM

References

American Psychological Association. (2021) *Paraphrasing.*

<https://apastyle.apa.org/style-grammar-guidelines/citations/paraphrasing>

American Psychological Association. (2021). *Quotations.*

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***MindTap English Handbook* (1st ed.). (2015). Cengage.**

Purdue University. (2021). *Paraphrasing. Purdue Online Writing Lab.*

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/using_research/quotting_paraphrasing_and_summarizing/paraphrasing.html