

# WHAT IS PLAGIARISM?

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## FAQs

### **Q: What is plagiarism?**

A: Plagiarism is the theft of ideas. Whether intentional or not, if information is used without giving proper credit to its source, it is considered plagiarism. The consequences can be severe and professors are not new to the game, so don't bother trying!

### **Q: Specifically, how does someone plagiarize?**

A: Plagiarism happens when a student does not use quotation marks around borrowed language, when the student does not cite where quotes and borrowed ideas come from, and when a student does not put paraphrases or summaries in his or her own words. (Hacker 570)

### **Q: What *should* I document?**

A: You should document all word-for-word quotations from a source, all summaries of material from a source, all ideas (including opinions, judgments, and insights) of others, and all tables, graphs, charts, and statistics that you get from a source. (Kirsznier 644)

### **Q: What type of documentation style should I use?**

A: Always ask your professor first! However, the two most common types of citations are **MLA** and **APA**. MLA is used for the humanities (English, philosophy, religion, languages, history, art) and APA is used for the social sciences (psychology, sociology, business, economics, social work, nursing). **These pages are devoted to the MLA style, but there are links at the end to direct you to further information on APA.**

### **Q: Can I use the internet as a source for my paper?**

A: The internet is not off limits, but *be careful!* There are a lot of sites out there that are not credible sources. Anybody can make a website, but credible information does not come from just anybody! Look for official organizations and try for sources that list the author or provider of information. A great example of a commonly used website that is NOT trustworthy is Wikipedia. When in doubt, ask your professor.

### **Q: How can I avoid plagiarism?**

A: Don't procrastinate! Research is often the most time-consuming part of writing a research paper. Plan for time to find your sources, then even more time to read your sources and decide what you want to use.

Document all information AS YOU GET IT. Keeping index cards with the information and its source often helps.

Resist the temptation to keep looking at the source as you take notes. This will help you avoid copying phrases and word choices.

Make sure you fully understand the information. If you do, you'll more easily be able to use your own words to explain it in your paper.

### **Q: What are some common examples of plagiarism?**

A: Allowing another student to write your paper for you (even if it's just part of it!)

Copying essays from the internet (even if you cite this, you cannot copy an entire essay to turn in as your own)

"Cut & Pasting" from the internet—this is common and almost always wrong because students don't cite it, or they don't use the info to support their own original ideas

Failing to follow MLA or APA guidelines

**See the following pages for examples on how to correctly quote, paraphrase and create a works cited page, as well as view additional resources.**

# HOW TO QUOTE

## Original Source #1:

Jensen, Eric. Student Success Secrets. Hauppauge. Barron's. 1996

...You've seen others with that personality magic or some kind of charisma. How do they develop it? It's not hard, but it does take time. Why? **Everything you think has the possibility of leading to an action. Every action you take can lead to habit. Every habit you develop becomes your personality and a winning (or losing) attitude.** So, it's easy to see that...

15

## Original Source #2:

Hales, Diane. An Invitation to Health, 7<sup>th</sup> Ed. Pacific Grove: Brooks, 1997.

**Lack of exercise is especially common among women. Even though research has shown definite health benefits for women—including a lower risk of osteoporosis, certain cancers, and heart disease—approximately 70% of women are sedentary or irregularly active. In a 1995 report...**

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## PLAGIARIZED Student Examples:

#1

Eric Jensen believes that everything you think has the possibility of leading to an action. Every action you take can lead to habit. Every habit you develop becomes your personality and a winning (or losing) attitude. When studying for...

#2

Many women remain inactive, despite the fact that "research has shown definite health benefits for women—including a lower risk of osteoporosis, certain cancers, and heart disease." These problems...

### Why these are wrong:

#1

This student did not use any **quotation marks**. By doing this, it appears that the quote is actually the student's words. The student also did not **cite the source**. Even though the student gives mention to the author, this is still plagiarism.

#2

This student remembered to use quotation marks, but she did not **cite the source**.



## CORRECT Student Examples

#1

Eric Jensen believes, "Everything you think has the possibility of leading to an action. Every action you take can lead to habit. Every habit you develop becomes your personality and a winning (or losing) attitude." (15) With these words of advice...

#2

Though it is common knowledge that exercise has numerous health benefits, "approximately 70% of women are sedentary or irregularly active." (Hales 123)

### Why these are correct:

#1

This student correctly used quotation marks to begin and end the borrowed sentence. Immediately after the quote, she puts the correct page number that the quote came from. In this instance, the author's name does not need to be included in the citation because it is used to introduce the quote.

#2

This student also correctly used quotation marks around the borrowed sentence and immediately cited its source. In this example, the name of the author was included in the citation because the author was not mentioned.

# HOW TO PARAPHRASE

## Original Source#3:

Nash, Gary, et al. The American People: Creating a Nation and Society. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Vol. 2. New York: Harper, 1996.

While two-thirds of the states passed some form of child labor law between 1905 and 1907, many had loopholes that exempted a large number of children, including newsboys and youngsters who worked in theater.

458

## Original Source #4:

Chadwick, Douglas. "What Are They Doing Down There?" National Geographic Jan. 2007: 72-93.

Reduced to a few thousand world-wide, humpbacks began to rebound after an international ban on killing them went into effect in the 1960s. A soon-to-be completed three-year census dubbed SPLASH, the largest, most intensive humpback whale survey ever undertaken, could put the North Pacific population alone at more than 10,000 and possibly as many as 25,000.

76



## PLAGIARIZED Student Examples:

#3

Even though two-thirds of the states passed child labor laws between 1905 and 1907, a large number of children were still exempt, especially newsboys and youngsters in theater.(Nash 458)

#4

After a ban on killing humpbacks was initiated in the 1960s, these whales began to flourish in the North Pacific, skyrocketing their numbers from just a few thousand forty years ago, to possibly ten thousand or more today.

### Why these are wrong:

#3

This example uses far too many phrases that are word-for-word identical to the original. Even replacing many of those words with synonyms would still make it plagiarism because the structure is just too similar.

#4

This example of paraphrasing is actually a good one, but the student failed to cite where the source came from. Regardless of his use of original wording, it is still plagiarism.



## CORRECT Student Examples

#3

According to Gary Nash, in the early twentieth century, two-thirds of the states passed laws that prohibited child labor in some way, however, many of these were flawed and did not protect all children. (458)

#4

Humpback whales have seen a dramatic turn-around since the 1960s when a ban was placed on killing the few thousand that were left. Since then, SPLASH, the largest whale-census ever carried out, predicts that in the North Pacific the whales have prospered to ten thousand or more. (Chadwick76)

### Why these are correct:

#3

This example introduces the author as well as summarizes the information in an original way. At the end of the paraphrase, the student cited the page number, but remembered the name was not necessary, since she already mentioned the author's name.

#4

This example is correct because it also summarizes the information in an original way and the student correctly cited its source. Because the author's name was not mentioned in the paraphrase, he included it in the citation.

# HOW TO CREATE A WORKS CITED PAGE

- A Works Cited page is the LAST page of your paper and it is numbered just like the rest of the pages, in the upper right hand corner.
- Use 1" margins
- Space your name and page number ½" from the top
- Double space from the title (Works Cited) to your first entry
- Indent ½" any additional lines after the first in each entry
- Double space within each entry and between them
- Alphabetize each entry by author's last name (or if there is no author, the first word of the title)
- You MUST include ALL sources you cited, referenced or paraphrased
- **Reference the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers by Joseph Gibaldi for more detailed information concerning your sources and how to document them**
- Remember that every kind of source, whether a book, magazine, internet source or audio tape, has its own special citation. You can learn how to cite pretty much every kind of source through the MLA Handbook.

The diagram illustrates the layout of a Works Cited page. At the top right, the name "Smith 12" is positioned ½ inch from the top edge. The title "Works Cited" is centered. Below the title, the first entry is "Chadwick, Douglas. 'What Are They Doing Down There?'" followed by a double-space annotation. The second entry is "Hales, Diane. An Invitation to Health, 7<sup>th</sup> Ed. Pacific Grove: Brooks, 1997." The third entry is "Jensen, Eric. Student Success Secrets. City. Publisher. 1996." The fourth entry is "Nash, Gary, et al. The American People: Creating a Nation and Society. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Vol. 2. New York: Harper, 1996." Annotations include a 1-inch margin on the left and right, a 1-inch margin between the title and the first entry, and double-spacing between entries.

↑  
1"  
↓

Smith 12

Works Cited

Double-space between title and first entry

← 1" → Chadwick, Douglas. "What Are They Doing Down There?" National Geographic Jan. 2007: 72-93.

Hales, Diane. An Invitation to Health, 7<sup>th</sup> Ed. Pacific Grove: Brooks, 1997.

Jensen, Eric. Student Success Secrets. City. Publisher. 1996

Nash, Gary, et al. The American People: Creating a Nation and Society. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Vol. 2. New York: Harper, 1996.

Double-space





# SOURCES FOR MORE HELP



## **PEOPLE & PLACES:**

**Your Professor:** Your professor *wants* you to ask questions! He or she will be happy to help you get it right.

**Learning Center, House 71 (library circle):** A great place for all kinds of academic help, tutoring and references.

**HSU Library:** All kinds of references about plagiarism can be found in the library. If you need helping finding them, ask a librarian.

**HSU Writing Center, FH 201:** For help with specific papers, this is an excellent place to go.

## **SPECIFIC BOOKS:**

**MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, by Joseph Gibaldi**—this can be found in the HSU library, the Learning Center and your professor may even have his or her own copy.

**Mastering APA Style: Student's Workbook and Training Guide, by Harold Gelfand**—this can be found in the HSU library, along with numerous other APA style guidebooks.

## **ON-LINE SOURCES:**

**Avoiding Plagiarism**-Online Writing Lab at Purdue

[http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r\\_plagiar.html](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_plagiar.html)

**Plagiarism: What it is and How to Recognize and Avoid It**-Writing Center, Indiana University, Bloomington

<http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml>

**How Not to Plagiarize**-Margaret Proctor, Coordinator of Writing Support at the University of Toronto

<http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html>

**Plagiarism Quiz: What is Plagiarism (at Indiana University)?**

<http://education.indiana.edu/~frick/plagiarism/item1.html>

**Citation Machine** – an easy tool for formatting your citations for several different styles

<http://citationmachine.net>

## **APA**

**APA formatting**

<http://citationmachine.net>

**APA Style.org**

<http://www.apastyle.org/>

**APA Citation Style**

<http://www.liu.edu/cwis/cwp/library/workshop/citapa.htm>

**Online Writing Lab at Purdue**

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>

## Works Cited

Chadwick, Douglas. "What Are They Doing Down There?" National Geographic Jan.2007: 72-93

Gibaldi, Joseph. MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. 6<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: MLA, 2003

Hacker, Diana. The Bedford Handbook 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Boston: Bedford Books, 1998

Hales, Diane. An Invitation to Health 7<sup>th</sup> ed. Pacific Grove: Brooks, 1997

Jensen, Eric. Student Success Secrets. Hauppauge: Barron's, 1996

Kirszner, Laurie, and Mandell, Stephen. Focus on Writing: Paragraphs and Essays. Boston: Bedford, 2008

Nash, Gary, et al. The American People: Creating a Nation and Society. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Vol. 2 New York: Harper, 1996.