

Plagiarism



Latin for “kidnapper”

Plagiarism is presenting someone else's words or ideas as your own. It can be deliberate or accidental.

Deliberate Plagiarism:

- Copying a phrase or sentence from a source and omitting quotation marks and a source citation
- Handing a paper you have bought, had a friend write, or copied from another student

Accidental Plagiarism:

- Forgetting to place quotation marks around another writer's words
- Forgetting to include a source citation for a quotation
- Omitting a source citation from a paraphrase or someone else's idea because you didn't know you needed to acknowledge the idea

Ask yourself:

- Are you using someone else's original ideas or words?
- Or is the information “common knowledge” (information that anyone could find or know from a number of general sources)?
- Or is the information your own thinking and expression?
- If you are quoting, did you quote accurately?
- Did you include quotation marks around your quoted material?
- If you are putting someone else's words or ideas in your own words, called *paraphrasing*, did you give credit to the original source?
- When you paraphrased, did you use your own words and sentence structures? Does it sound totally unlike the original writing?
- Does your list of works cited include **all** of the sources you used in in your paper?

You should:

1. Introduce your source by title or author
2. Show the page number in parentheses after the information you are quoting or paraphrasing
3. Give the complete publishing information about your source in the works cited page at the end of your paper.

Examples of plagiarism:

ORIGINAL SOURCE

No animal has done more for to renew interest in animal intelligence than the bilingual chimpanzee named Bonobo, who has the grammatical abilities of a child and a taste for movies about cavemen.

PLAGIARISM

According to Eugene Linden, no animal has done more to renew interest in animal intelligence than a bilingual chimpanzee named Bonobo, who has the grammatical abilities of a child and a taste for movies about cavemen.

PLAGIARISM

No animal has made scientists more interested in animal intelligence than the bilingual chimpanzee Bonobo, who has the grammar of a child and loves movies about cave men.

ACCEPTABLE PARAPHRASE

Scientists have become fascinated with the chimpanzee Bonobo who shows animal intelligence by understanding human language, using simple grammar, and enjoying movies about cave men (Linden 32)

ACCEPTABLE QUOTATION

Scientists have become fascinated with the chimpanzee Bonobo “who has the grammatical abilities of a child and a taste for movies about cavemen” (Linden 32).

(Examples above adapted from *The Bedford Handbook*, 5th edition, pp. 571-572)

IMPORTANT:

Use your OWN words. When you use other people’s words or ideas, always give CREDIT.