Plagiarism and Citing Sources

About This Guide

The goal of this guide is to help you understand plagiarism, suggest some steps to avoid it, and show you the importance of giving credit by citing sources when you quote, paraphrase and/or summarize from the information you use in your research papers. Click on the appropriate link below for specific help.

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How to avoid plagiarism?
Where in my paper do I need to cite?
Do I need to cite the entire text in my paper?
What are some popular citation styles?
Tips
Where can I find help to cite in APA, MLA, Chicago and other citation styles?
Do you need more help?

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What is plagiarism and how to avoid it?

Plagiarism is defined as using another’s ideas, words, or knowledge in any format (print, online, media, etc.) and passing them on as your own. Whether it is done intentionally or inadvertently, it is still considered plagiarism. Plagiarism infringes on a person’s right to intellectual property; it is stealing—committing academic dishonesty—and can occur in a variety of ways:

- Turning in another person’s work as your own (including papers from free websites).
- Copying text, an excerpt, a paragraph, or a line without proper acknowledgment from books, periodicals, monographs, maps, charts, pamphlets, and other sources, such as the Internet or article databases.
- Using a quotation without proper documentation (omitting quotation marks).
- Paraphrasing material without citing the source(s).
- Purchasing a paper from a research service or a commercial term-paper mill.
- Sharing or swapping from a local source (other students’ papers).

How to avoid plagiarism?

**Acknowledge sources by giving credit, and cite your sources in order to avoid plagiarism.**

By citing, you are letting your readers, including your professors, know where you got your information, ideas, or thoughts from and, at the same time, you are crediting the author for the original information.
Where in my paper do I need to cite?

When you paraphrase, quote, or use (take) information from other sources, you need to provide an in-text citation that links whatever text you paraphrase or quote in the body of your paper to the original source (see Example 1); in addition, you need to provide the full citation on the last page of your paper, which is your Reference page, Work Cited, or Bibliography (see Example 2). The American Psychological Association (APA) manual provides examples of the general format used in the Social Sciences for citations in text and in References.

Example 1—APA in-text citation
Plagiarism has become such a serious issue on college campuses that “librarians at all levels, including secondary school, echoed this sentiment and were confounded that students have not learned the importance of citing the work of others” (Madray, 2008, p. 120).

Example 2—APA Reference page

References


Do I need to cite the entire text in my paper?

It is not imperative to cite factual, well-documented information (e.g., John F. Kennedy was the President of the United States). However, quotations, statistics, images, and artwork taken from, e.g., books, periodicals, and the Internet, should be cited. When in doubt, cite.

What are some popular citation styles?

Your professor will usually specify which citation style to use. A list of the most popular styles can be found below.

**Note:** If your professor does not require a specific format and allows you to choose one, be consistent. For example, if you choose to use the APA style, then you must apply that style to your entire paper. Do not use different style formats within the same paper.

- APA—used in the social sciences, such as psychology and education.
- MLA (Modern Language Association)—used in the humanities, such as literature and the arts.
- AMA (American Medical Association)—used primarily in the sciences, such as medicine and health.
- Chicago and Turabian—generally applied to all subject areas.

Tips

Do not procrastinate when you have an assignment, and be organized: Take notes and identify important information from the sources for your bibliography and other citations.
Identify:

- **Books**: Author, Title, Publisher, Place, and Year of Publication.
- **Periodicals (Journals, Magazines, and Newspapers)**: Author, Title of Article, Name of Periodical, Year, Volume, Issue, and Pages.
- **Websites**: URL/Web Address, Author, Title, and Date the site was accessed.

**Note**: Research papers found on the Internet (including those purchased from paper-mills) are not only available to **you** alone but to **your professor** as well, who is also an expert in the field.

### Where can I find help to cite in APA, MLA, Chicago and other citation styles?

Various style manuals are available in the library at the Reference Desk and on the library's web page under citation creation.

**APA Style**

- *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* BF76.7.P83 2010
- *APA Style Guide to Electronic References* PN171.F56 A63 2007

**Websites**

- Diana Hacker’s handbooks for help with academic writing: [http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/RES5e_ch06_o.html](http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/RES5e_ch06_o.html)
- Purdue University: [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/)

**Online Tutorial**

Harvard University: [http://isites.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=apa_exposed](http://isites.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=apa_exposed)

**MLA Style**

*MLA Handbook for Writers and Research papers* LB2369 .G53 2009

**Websites**

- Diana Hacker: [http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/RES5e_ch04_o.html](http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/RES5e_ch04_o.html)
- Purdue University: [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/)

**Chicago Style**


**Websites**

- Purdue University: [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/717/01/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/717/01/)
- Ohio State University: [http://library.osu.edu/sites/guides/chicagogd.php](http://library.osu.edu/sites/guides/chicagogd.php)

**Other Citation Guides**

- *Cite Right: A Quick Guide to Citation Styles—MLA, APA, Chicago, the Sciences, Professions, and More* PN171.F56 L55 2006
- *Doing Honest Work in College: How to Prepare Citations, Avoid Plagiarism, and Achieve Real Academic Success* PN171.F56 L56 2004
Where Can I Find Help in Formatting Citations?

- KnightCite (Calvin College): http://www.calvin.edu/library/knightcite/index.php
- Son of Citation Machine (The Landmark Project): http://citationmachine.net/
- RefWorks (Adelphi University Libraries): http://libraries.adelphi.edu/research/citation.php

Do you need more help?

If so, consult your professor or another authority in the field. Professors are interested in providing students with the skills needed to read and write comprehensively and correctly and to do so in their own words.

You can always contact:

- The Adelphi Writing Center at (516) 877-3296, Earle Hall, Lower Level, or at http://students.adelphi.edu/writingcenter/
- The Adelphi Learning Support Center offers Tutorial Services at (516) 877-3200, Earle Hall, Lower Level, or at http://students.adelphi.edu/learningcenter/
- A Reference librarian at (516) 877-3574, Swirbul, 2nd Floor, or at http://libraries.adelphi.edu/