

Avoiding plagiarism the TOMMIE way...



Through this informational packet, you will learn how to recognize plagiarism, how to avoid it, and how to tell the difference between plagiarism and appropriate use of information in research papers.

Using someone else's words or ideas without properly giving them credit is plagiarism.

To avoid plagiarism, you need to remember three important things:

1. **citing your sources**
2. **using quotation marks**
3. **paraphrasing**

PLAGIARISM

- Copying sentences, phrases or paragraphs exactly as they appear in the original source
- Copying sentences and putting them in a different order
- Copying sentences and replacing a few words with synonyms
- Copying sentences and adding some of your own

PARAPHRASING

- Re-stating the author's idea in your own words, using your own voice
- Summarizing the author's main points in your own words

THESE WOULD STILL WARRANT YOU CITING YOUR SOURCE!

1. Citing your sources:

If you use any words, or even ideas, from another source (such as a Web site, book, journal article, interview, or even another English paper) **YOU MUST GIVE PROPER CREDIT TO THE SOURCE.** If the information is not considered common knowledge, then you must cite the source where you learned it.

"Citing your sources" means giving all of the information about your source (author, title, date of publication, web site, and/or whatever other information is required for proper formatting) so someone else can find that source of information again.

2. Using quotation marks:

When writing a paper, if you use someone else's exact words, those words must be put in quotation marks. **CHANGING A FEW WORDS HERE AND THERE IS NOT ENOUGH—YOU ARE STILL PLAGIARIZING.** You must put quotation marks around the entire quote, OR rewrite it in your own words, and still give credit to the source where you found the information.

You should use quotes in your paper only to support your own argument or clarify a point you are making, but your own argument should be made using your own words.

3. Paraphrasing:

This means to rewrite what someone else has said in **YOUR OWN WAY.** Your writing, no matter what type, should sound like it came from you, not someone else.

QUESTIONS? We recommend the following:

http://dianahacker.com/resdoc/p04_c08_s2.html

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01/>

<http://www.library.acadiau.ca/tutorials/plagiarism/>



1) Citing Sources

The following are examples of correct and incorrect ways to **cite sources** in research papers.

Research Topic: Lord of the Flies (character descriptions)

Original Text (taken from the novel):

The owner of the voice came backing out of the undergrowth so that twigs scratched on a greasy wind-breaker. The naked crooks of his knees were plump, caught and scratched by thorns. He bent down, removed the thorns carefully, and turned round. He was shorter than the fair boy and very fat. He came forward, searching out safe lodgments for his feet, and then looked up through thick spectacles.

Source:

Golding, William. Lord of the Flies. London: Putnam Publishing, 1954. Print.

Incorrect Use

When the reader is first introduced to the character of Piggy, the author does not waste time in describing his shortcomings. He is described as shorter than the fair boy, very fat and wearing spectacles.

Explanation: *The author of this paragraph did not cite the original source. Although the words in this paragraph are not copied directly from the original, the source still needs to be cited because the information being discussed came from the original source.*

Copying from a text, changing the order of words, and/or replacing a few words with synonyms IS PLAGIARISM.

Correct Use

When the reader is first introduced to the character of Piggy, the author does not waste time in describing his shortcomings. He is described as shorter than the fair boy, very fat and wearing spectacles (Golding 7).

Golding, William. Lord of the Flies. London: Putnam Publishing, 1954. Print.

Explanation: *In this paragraph the author cites the original source in the text of the essay, and includes the complete reference in MLA style at the end of the paper in the Works Cited page.*



2) Using Quotation Marks

Following are examples of correct and incorrect ways to **use quotation marks** in research papers.

Research Topic: Students and Cell Phones: Controversy in the **Classroom**

The Original Text (taken from an online article):

Teachers have been overwhelmingly in favor of cell phone bans, but parents are often equally adamant that their children be allowed to carry cell phones at school. And many teachers themselves acknowledge that they rely on their cell phones, particularly for making calls during planning periods, lunchtime, and before and after school; it seems only fair, they say, that students be allowed similar (if more limited) privileges.

Source:

Shaw, Katherine. "Students and Cell Phones: Controversy in the Classroom." *Associated Content*. 4 July 2005. Web. 9 October 2009.

Incorrect Use

This year at our high school, the policy regarding cell phone use during school hours has been changed. Up until now, students were only allowed to use cell phones in designated areas and only when class was not in session. It is a known fact that teachers themselves acknowledge that they rely on their cell phones, particularly for making calls during planning periods, lunchtime, and before and after school. Hypocritical, much?

Explanation: *The author of this paragraph used an exact phrase from the original text, "teachers themselves acknowledge that they rely on their cell phones, particularly for making calls during planning periods, lunchtime, and before and after school," but didn't put the phrase in quotation marks, and didn't cite the original source.*

Copying from a text, changing the order of words, and/or replacing a few words with synonyms IS PLAGIARISM.

Correct Use

This year at our high school, the policy regarding cell phone use during school hours has been changed. Up until now, students were only allowed to use cell phones in designated areas and only when class was not in session. It is a known fact that "teachers themselves acknowledge that they rely on their cell phones, particularly for making calls during planning periods, lunchtime, and before and after school" (Shaw). Hypocritical, much?

Shaw, Katherine. "Students and Cell Phones: Controversy in the Classroom." *Associated Content*. 4 July 2005. Web. 9 October 2009.

Explanation: *The author paraphrased the original text by restating the ideas in his/her own words, and cited the original source in MLA style.*



3) Paraphrasing

Following are examples of correct and incorrect ways to **paraphrase** in research papers.

Research Topic: The Life and Times of William Shakespeare

The Original Text (taken from an anthology):

About Shakespeare's place of birth, Stratford-upon-Avon, there is no doubt. He spent his childhood there and returned periodically throughout his life. During most or all of his long professional career in London, his wife and children lived in Stratford. He acquired property and took some interest in local affairs. He retired to Stratford and chose to be buried there.

Source:

Bevington, David. The Complete Works of Shakespeare. New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 1992. lii. Print.

Incorrect Use

There is no doubt about where Shakespeare was born—it was at Stratford-upon-Avon. He stayed there for most of his childhood and visited quite often throughout his life. His wife and children lived in Stratford. He bought land and became interested in local affairs, then retired and was buried there.

Explanation: *The author copied most of the original text and changed or added a few words, and did not even cite the original source. Copying from a text, changing the order of words, and/or replacing a few words with synonyms IS PLAGIARISM.*

Correct Use

Shakespeare spent most of his life at his birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon, while his wife and children lived in Stratford. He eventually retired in Stratford, the place where he was finally laid to rest (Bevington lii).

Bevington, David. The Complete Works of Shakespeare. New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 1992. lii. Print.

Explanation: *The author paraphrased the original text by restating the ideas in his/her own words, and cited the original source in MLA style.*