

Plagiarism, Paraphrasing, and Summarizing

During your career as a college student you will be asked to write about a variety of topics and present those ideas in numerous ways. In any assignment you create that uses material from something you had to look up or research, you have to cite it or else you are PLAGIARIZING.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is when you borrow the author's language, sentence structure, or ideas without properly citing the work in your essay.

You cannot use the results of another's research or material, specific arrangement of the material, list of steps and conclusions in an experiment, or artistic concept without acknowledging the original creator and source with proper citation.

There are three ways you can avoid plagiarism in academic writing: 1) by using **proper citation** of the work through the usage of quotes, 2) by **paraphrasing** and **summarizing** the work into your own words, or 3) by avoiding directly copying someone else's work.

Quotes and block quote

When using the exact word or words of an author, no matter whether they are taken from a book, song, magazine, website, or other written source, you **MUST** place those words within quotation marks and credit the source of those words. If the quote you are using is more than four lines you must format it as a block quote.

Two major formats for quoting an author's original work is MLA and APA formats. These formats are very specific in how they are presented, down to the grammatical units.

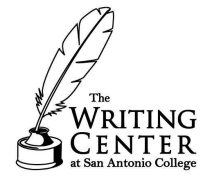
MLA in-text citation

- In Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, Hamlet is visited by a ghost who claims to be, "[Hamlet's] father's spirit" (I.5.10).
- or** Satire can be seen in the naming of the character Don Fernando d'Ibaraa y Figueroa y Mascarenes y Lampourdos y Souza and in his "handsome mustache" as the only qualities worth mention (Voltaire 374).

APA in-text citation

- According to Bill Nye (1993), scientists once believed that "at one time all of the plates of the earth's crust were one piece called Pangaea...whole earth."
- or** Scientists once believed that "at one time all of the plates of the earth's crust were one piece called Pangaea...whole earth" (Nye, 1993).

Colleges take
plagiarism very
seriously and severe
penalties may be
imposed.



{For more information on MLA and APA citations, please refer to the available handouts that specifically address this concern}

Paraphrasing

The goal of paraphrasing a work is to present your understanding and reflection of what you have read or seen. Although you will present the information in your own words, **you must still cite where the information originally came from.**

Bill Nye states that the reason we have earthquakes is because of the theory of plate tectonics, which is the movement of plates. This idea was proposed because the shapes of the continents appear to fit nicely together despite the distance between the continents. The large landmass that was formed when all the plates were together was called Pangaea which means whole earth (Nye 1993).

How to Summarize

A summary is more general in its restatement than a paraphrase.

Hamlet is the story of a guy who slowly goes crazy because his father was killed by his uncle, who later married his mother. In the end everybody dies.

{note that summarizing in your own words does not require citation}

Definition of Paraphrase (n.)

1. A restatement of a text, passage, or work giving the meaning in another form.



Tip

- You cannot rearrange pieces of someone else's material (undefined with quotation marks) with your own writing and claim it as your own product, even if you acknowledge the original writer.



Tip

- You may use shared language or specialized common terminology used by others in the study of, or practice of your subject, i.e., architectural, nursing, or art terms, without need of acknowledgment or quotation marks.

Definition of Summary (n.)

1. A short statement of the main points
2. A brief statement that gives the most important information about something



Tip

- Most essays only require a brief retelling of the work or event you are writing about. This information is best included in the introduction as background information to help focus your paper.