Avoid Plagiarism

Plagiarism is, loosely defined, using someone else’s ideas as your own. Most of us understand that taking an idea from someone, without giving credit, is cheating- and unethical. What we don’t always consider is that most plagiarism at the student level is committed in error. We don’t mean to plagiarize, but it happens because we don’t plan carefully when doing our writing. The following tools can help you avoid plagiarizing:

- Keep a two to one ratio: two direct quotes or paraphrases per page
- Read passages over and over until you can explain it clearly to another person without looking at the page
- Write down the main idea from the passage on a piece of paper in your notes, then put the article away
- Don’t keep the original with you when you write
- Record the citation information in your notes so you have it
- Reread your work
- Try reading to another person
- Work early and often on writing: Revise and edit
- Visit your Writing Center

Elements of Your Paper

- Typed
- Double Spaced- Everywhere
- Printed on 8.5x11 inch paper, with 1 inch margins
- 12 Point Times New Roman Font- unless otherwise specified
- Page numbers on top right
- Paper header on top right (Paper header is the TITLE OF YOUR PAPER IN CAPS) (optional, ask your instructor)
- Title Page (In APA this is not optional, but some instructors don’t want a Title Page, follow your assignment)
- Abstract (In APA this is not optional, but some instructors don’t want an Abstract, follow your assignment)
- References page (your citations should be in APA Format)

In-Text Citations

When you reference something within the text of your paper, it is important to give the author credit within the text. In-text citations tell the reader where to look, on your references page, to find out how to access the information you paraphrased or quoted.

To Begin
- Note the author’s last name
- Note the year of the work
- Note the page number you are quoting from (this is required for direct quotes)

Example In-Text Citation

If you mention the author’s name in the text, you can cite like this:
Esposito (2009) found that most citations were done fairly quickly, which led students to make mistakes (25).

If you don’t mention the author’s name in the text, cite like this:
Students who create citations quickly often make mistakes (Esposito, 2009).
The References Page

APA has specific rules for citing books, articles, web resources, even interviews. The following is a brief guide for creating your References page.

To Begin
- Reference list goes at the end of the paper
- Each citation (reference used) should have a hanging indent
- Alphabetize by author's last name
- Center the word References at the top of this page
- Don't use quotation marks- italicize when appropriate
- References are all double spaced
- Digital Object Identifier (DOI) numbers are preferred for online sources (DOI are not common- but please look for them when possible.)

Citation Samples

The following are some samples of how to format a citation using APA 6th ed. Remember, these are simple samples please refer to handbooks or OWL Purdue to find more extensive advice on formatting complex citations.

BOOK:
Lastname, A. (Year). Title of work: Capitalize only first word of title and subtitle. Location: Publisher.

Book Example:

ARTICLE:

Article Example:

ARTICLE FROM AN ONLINE SOURCE:
*Note: if the article is from a library database, the APA Handbook says you can cite it as if it were in the original print. (Above). Otherwise provide a DOI number or URL at the end of the citation.

Lastname, A. (Year). Title of article. Title of publication, volume number. doi: 0000000/000000000000

Article From An Online Source Examples
(with DOI)
10.1038/sj.bjc.6690350

(without DOI)