

# Don't Fail Your Courses: Cite Your Sources!



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# Examples of Academic Cheating



- Cheating on an exam
- “Unauthorized collaboration”
- Plagiarism
- Falsifying lab results/data
- Submitting a paper from one class to another class (w/out prior approval)

# Why Students Cheat



6. Everyone's doing it...
5. Pressure to do well
4. The teacher doesn't care, so why should I?
3. Didn't have enough time
2. Laziness
1. They didn't realize they were doing it!

# Plagiarism in the News



- [NPR story on Stephen Ambrose](#)

Example from Janice Cooper, *Plagiarism Workshop*

[http://mail.nvnet.org/~cooper\\_j/plagiarism/](http://mail.nvnet.org/~cooper_j/plagiarism/)

# What is Plagiarism?



- “Failing to **cite** quotations and borrowed ideas.
- Failing to enclose borrowed language in **quotation marks**.
- Failing to put summaries and paraphrases **in your own words**.”

*(Bedford Handbook, 570.)*

# Internet Plagiarism



- Internet searches, even those within scholarly databases, often yield many timely and relevant resources. In the face of abundance, the overwhelmed student might choose to cut and paste critical passages into her notes, **sometimes without quotation punctuation and/or source retrieval data.**
- Patches, papers that consist of excerpts from multiple sources, some with source documentation and others without, are common plagiarism products that look like a student paper. When readers look closely, however, they might notice that **the paper is marked by different writing styles, diction, documentation styles, etc.** Each paper needs to showcase your voice and ideas; sources should be used to support your claims and further your purpose, not the other way around.

# When is it Plagiarism?



- **Intentional**
  - Intentional copying/paraphrasing in order to pass off another's work as one's own
  - Paper sharing/term paper mills
- **Unintentional**
  - Improper paraphrasing
    - ✦ "If I change every 5<sup>th</sup> word, it's not plagiarism, right?"
    - ✦ Unconscious plagiarism
  - Improper citations

# Paraphrasing: Is this Plagiarism?

## Original Source

If the existence of a signing ape was unsettling for linguists, it was also startling news for animal behaviorists.

(An excerpt from an article by B. Davis)

## Version A

The existence of a signing ape unsettled linguists and startled animal behaviorists (Davis, 26).

This exercise is from  
*The Bedford Handbook*



# Answer A

## Original Source

If the **existence of a signing ape** was **unsettling for linguists**, it was also **startling news for animal behaviorists**.

## Version A

The **existence of a signing ape** **unsettled linguists** and **startled animal behaviorists** (Davis, 26).

**Answer:** Plagiarism. Even though the writer has cited the source, the writer has not used quotation marks around the direct quotation, "the existence of a signing ape." **In addition, the phrase, "unsettled linguists and startled animal behaviorists," closely resembles the wording of the source.**

# Paraphrasing: Is this Plagiarism?

## Original Source

If the existence of a signing ape was unsettling for linguists, it was also startling news for animal behaviorists.

## Version B

If the presence of a sign-language-using chimp was disturbing for scientists studying language, it was also surprising to scientists studying animal behavior (Davis, 26).

# Answer B



## Original Source

If the existence of a signing ape was unsettling for linguists, it was also startling news for animal behaviorists.

## Version B

If the presence of a sign-language-using chimp was disturbing for scientists studying language, it was also surprising to scientists studying animal behavior (Davis, 26).

**Answer: Still plagiarism.**  
Even though the writer has substituted synonyms and cited the source, the writer is plagiarizing because the source's sentence structure is unchanged.

# Paraphrasing: Is this Plagiarism?



## Original Source

If the existence of a signing ape was unsettling for linguists, it was also startling news for animal behaviorists.

## Version C

According to Flora Davis, linguists and animal behaviorists were unprepared for the news that a chimp could communicate with its trainers through sign language (26).

# Answer C

## Original Source

If the existence of a signing ape was unsettling for linguists, it was also startling news for animal behaviorists.

## Version C

According to Flora Davis, linguists and animal behaviorists were unprepared for the news that a chimp could communicate with its trainers through sign language (26).

**Answer: No plagiarism. This is an appropriate paraphrase of the original sentence.**

# A Summary of Proper Documentation



- **Exact phrases**
  - Include quotation marks around the borrowed passage.
  - Cite the author in the text and on your Works Cited page.
- **Paraphrasing requires**
  - Change the wording AND sentence structure.
  - Cite the author in the text and on your Works Cited page.
- **Ideas**
  - Cite the author in the text and on your Works Cited page.
- **Common knowledge**
  - Do not cite such common knowledge as the earth is round or Obama is President of the United States.

# Documentation Guidelines



- Note all information needed for a complete citation.
- Determine what citation style is required.
- Consult your style manual!

# Avoiding Plagiarism: Organizing Your Work



- Start early!
- Create a working bibliography.
- Keep copies of all sources.
- Use [RefWorks!](#)



# Tips: Note Taking



- Take careful notes!
- Try “blind” paraphrasing.
- Use index cards – one for each quotation/paraphrase/idea.
- Try the “Green Ink” or double-entry note-taking method.

# Double-Entry Journal Example

## ***Lord of the Flies***

"Now we come to the most important thing. I've been thinking...We want to have fun. And we want to be rescued" (37).

This quote captures how Ralph is stuck between two courses of action. He wants to be a kid, to be carefree; but he also wants to get rescued, to be responsible, and to lead the younger kids to safety. He is stuck between the adult world, represented by Piggy, and the world of childish wants, represented by Jack. I wonder which route he will eventually follow...

From *Guidelines for Double-Entry Journal Notes*

<http://www.husd.k12.ca.us/hayward/english/journalnotes.html>

# Tips: Writing Your Paper



- Use a graphic organizer to organize your ideas and sources; write your first draft from it rather than from the sources.
- Use signal phrases to introduce quotes. When appropriate, add author credentials.
- Place quotation marks around passages that you copy/paste from the Web.
- **When in doubt, cite!**

# Need More Help?



- [KL Writing Resources for Students](#)
- [KL Citation Guides](#)
- [The Writing Center! – 212 KL](#)
- [Kresge Library Plagiarism Tutorial](#)