Practical Steps to Preventing Plagiarism

Wednesday, April 22 @ 8 pm ET
Presenter – Molly Starkweather
Kaplan University Writing Center

Please click here to view the recorded workshop:
http://khe2.adobeconnect.com/p9cgep597b7/
Agenda

During this presentation, writers will discuss and practice the following skills:

- Recognizing plagiarism
- Identifying steps to prevent plagiarism
- Connecting steps to the reading and writing processes
What is plagiarism, again?

Which option sounds like the correct definition of plagiarism?

A. Buying a paper to “study with” from a web site and submitting it as your own
B. Using information from a source and citing it properly for 50% of the ideas/words in your paper
C. Citing sources in the reference page but not using in-text citations
All of the above!

- Submitting unoriginal content as your own, over-using sources, and leaving citations out can all count as plagiarism.
- Most instances of plagiarism are likely accidental, but all plagiarism takes away from your best writing, whether intentional or accidental.
What are steps to prevent plagiarism?
Prevent plagiarism before it happens by remembering the following:

1. Log citation information in reading notes.
2. Practice responding to texts in notes/journals.
3. Keep tabs on your original viewpoint throughout the writing process.
Be practical!

- Can these steps really work?
  - Yes!
- What do these steps look like?
  - See the following slides!
- What if there is not enough time to take all of these steps?
  - Use the steps that work for your writing situation!

Be practical!
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What do these steps look like? See the following slides!
What if there is not enough time to take all of these steps? Use the steps that work for your writing situation!
Prevent Plagiarism Before Writing

While gathering research, consider the following best practices:

• Copy down citation information (not necessarily writing the citation)
• Highlight passages to quote, paraphrase, or summarize
• Use other sources to answer your questions
Note-taking as Pre-writing

Start out with any initial questions, claims, or ideas you have about the topic.
- Are multiple choice tests better, or are long-term projects?
- Fluoride is not beneficial to children.
- Home-grown produce saves money while teaching life skills and discipline.

Use these initial thoughts to identify what you need from your sources.

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Notes to Include

Citation information
Your perspective on the topic/subtopic
Source’s perspective on the topic/subtopic
Your response to the source
My favorite method of taking notes on a class reading or source that I plan on using in my writing is called a Double Entry Journal, or DEJ for short. To make a DEJ, begin by drawing a line down the middle of a sheet of paper, or make a table in a word processing program with just two columns and plenty of rows. On the left side of the page, put at the top “Quotation, summary, or paraphrase from source” and on the right side, put “My questions, agreements, disagreements, and other comments.” Now you have an instant way of recording what you found notable from the text and your own thoughts in response to that text. Notice on the slide that there is a quotation with the exact language in quotation marks, cited properly, and on the right side there are thoughts in agreement with the quotation. Below that quotation is a paraphrased idea, cited, and to the right of that paraphrase is a point that the writer is using to explain the study’s results paraphrased on the left.
What makes a DEJ so effective is that you can lift the better notes from a DEJ and place them right into your paper. Notice on the left that there is a DEJ on a source on telemedicine, which is where specialists work virtually or over the phone on cases in remote locations. The left entry (highlighted in yellow) includes a summary of the telemedicine program used by the Army, and the right side of that entry (highlighted in blue) analyzes how well the program works. Since both sides of that DEJ entry do a good job of describing and analyzing the program, they fit together nicely as one paragraph in the paper, and since the wording and citations have already been worked out, the writer can just copy from the notes and paste into the paper, as we see on the right side of the slide.
Check your balance

How much of the paper uses sources vs. how much includes your original ideas?

80/20 Guideline

Remember to use Live Tutoring and Paper Review to check your balance every step of the way!
Connect with the KUWC’s new public webpage. You can actually Google and find this page. This is also a great way for you to stay connected to the KUWC through Facebook and Twitter. Many of our resources are here as well.
The best time to do a paper review in the Kaplan University Writing Center is after you have written your first draft. When you come to us early, we can help you the most by helping you with the structure of your paper. Many students send papers at the last minute because they want us to simply proofread their paper. However, KUWC writing tutors do not simply proofread the paper for you; we want to help you learn to write and proofread your own papers. You can submit a first draft, and then submit a later draft if you need further help on an assignment.

If you need help before you write the first draft, you can use live tutoring. During live tutoring, you can ask questions and brainstorm with a tutor. Live tutors can help you with other stages in the paper writing process as well. Come visit us. We can be found under the My Studies tab, then under Academic Support Center.
On the main Academic Support Center page, you will see the Writing Center links. These include Live Tutoring, Paper Review Service, the Writing Reference Library, Citation Guidelines, Workshops, English Language Learner, and Fundamental writing help. Notice, you can access the Kaplan Guide to Successful Writing on the right hand side in both print and audio form. Come visit us.
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  • English Language Learners
  • Writing Fundamentals Program
  • Effective Writing Podcasts Series
  • First-Term Student Resources
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Workshops are recorded and recording links, with an accompanying PowerPoint, are posted on the Writing Center Workshop page after the workshop.

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