5 Simple Tips for Avoiding Plagiarism

Tuesday, Oct. 27 @ 7 pm ET

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To watch the archived recording, click here: http://bit.ly/1jPCvYY
Overview

What is plagiarism?
How many sources can I use?
Should I quote or paraphrase?
How should I paraphrase?
How do I cite sources?
Where can I work on preventing plagiarism in a judgment free space?

Agenda

1.
2.
3.
What is plagiarism?

Plagiarism is the theft and use of another’s words, ideas, results, or images without giving appropriate credit to that person, therefore giving the impression that it is your own work. Learn more by clicking on this link: [http://bit.ly/208L7uf](http://bit.ly/208L7uf)
Why do we hear so much about plagiarism?

1. Preventing plagiarism is important. Plagiarism, whether accidental or intentional, can impact your reputation as well as the reputation of the university. Since the greatest goal of our time together while you are here at Kaplan is to equip and empower you for success, the tutors in the Academic Support Centers are committed to helping you prevent plagiarism with tutoring while studying and drafting assignments.

2. Plagiarism is mostly accidental. Since plagiarism is most often the result of misunderstanding of citation guidelines as part of mistakes one might make during the learning process, we in the Academic Support Centers try to talk about plagiarism early and often to give students the most supportive environment we can.
How many sources should I use?

The number of sources or how often to cite depends on the assignment instructions.

A good general guideline is the 80/20 guideline, which specifies 80% of the paper should be entirely original to the writer.

Contact the instructor for guidance as to how the 80/20 guideline might or might not apply.

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Should I quote or paraphrase?

Limit quotations to only occasions where exact language is needed.
Paraphrasing aligns the source with the writer’s context, which eases the transition from the source’s ideas to the writer’s.
Quoting vs. Paraphrasing

Quoting
- For language so eloquent and precise it cannot be paraphrased
- For taking apart a quotation critically
- For including dialogue

Paraphrasing
- For information that can be rephrased to fit your voice and context while retaining original meaning
- For ideas from others you understand very well
  - Feel free to come for tutoring if you need help understanding a text!

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How should I paraphrase?

1. Read source several times to understand meaning
2. Write down meaning in notes and include citation
3. Compare wording and meaning from original to your paraphrase
How do I cite sources?

Citations point the way to the source
- In-text citations → Full citations

Citation for a paraphrase
- No signal phrase- A recent study argues for stronger punishments for copyright infringement (Johnson & Filling, 2009).
Paraphrasing Example

Margaret’s thesis statement is: “Standardized tests do not measure writing skills as well as portfolios of student writing.”

Her source, a 2014 study by Wahlberg, says “57% of instructors indicated more accurate and thorough assessment of student writing with portfolios than by timed exams” (p. 152).
First Attempt Paraphrase

- “57% of instructors indicated more accurate and thorough assessment of student writing with portfolios than by timed exams” (Wahlberg, 2014, p. 152).

- 57% of teachers showed better assessment of the writing done by students when using portfolios instead of timed exams.

First Attempt Paraphrase

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Analyzing First Attempt

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Changing every few words is not effective enough. It is more effective to change words and syntax when paraphrasing source material.
Attempting Paraphrase Together

• Original: “57% of instructors indicated more accurate and thorough assessment of student writing with portfolios than by timed exams” (Wahlberg, 2014, p. 152).
• What is the main idea from this information?
• What would you emphasize if you were using this information to talk about research projects vs. tests and which is better?
• How would you use your own writing voice/style?
• Let’s attempt to paraphrase together in chat.

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Let’s attempt to paraphrase together in chat.
Second Attempt Paraphrasing

- Original: “57% of instructors indicated more accurate and thorough assessment of student writing with portfolios than by timed exams” (Wahlberg, 2014, p. 152).
- Paraphrase: The majority of the instructors in Wahlberg’s (2014) study found higher quality assessment in a culmination of student writing over a term, not a snapshot of student writing in a timed exam.
  - Emphasizes how long the assignment takes to complete.

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Paraphrase: The majority of the instructors in Wahlberg’s (2014) study found higher quality assessment in a culmination of student writing over a term, not a snapshot of student writing in a timed exam.

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Questions and Resources

1. What is plagiarism?  Academic Integrity Policy
2. How many sources can I use?  80/20 Guideline
3. Should I quote or paraphrase?  Basic Citation Guidelines
4. How should I paraphrase?  Paraphrasing Video Tutorial
5. How do I cite sources?  Common Citations in APA
6. Where can I work on preventing plagiarism in a judgment free space?
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.
Writing Center

Writing Tutor
Paper Review and Q&A Services
Writing Reference Library
Citation Guidelines (APA & more)
Writing Workshops
Graduate Student Resources
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.

Kaplan University Writing Center Resources

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