Common Plagiarism Misconceptions
Monday, April 25, 2016 @ 8:30 pm ET
Presenter – Amy Sexton
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Please click here to view this recorded workshop:
http://khe2.adobeconnect.com/p7nurjv9ja2/
Agenda

- True or False (Misconceptions versus Reality)
- Examples of Plagiarism
- Tips for Preventing Plagiarism

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True or False (Misconceptions versus Reality)
Examples of Plagiarism
Tips for Preventing Plagiarism
True or False?

- If I find something through Google, it’s okay to copy and paste it, as long as I provide the web site address.
- If I put something in my own words, I don’t have to cite it.
- I just read a bunch of different things on the internet. I didn’t really borrow anything specific, so I don’t need to have citation.

True or False?
If I find something through Google, it’s okay to copy and paste it, as long as I provide the web site address.
If I put something in my own words, I don’t have to cite it.
I just read a bunch of different things on the internet. I didn’t really borrow anything specific, so I don’t need to have citation.
True or False?

• I changed most of the words to synonyms in my paraphrase. Since I used my own words, I do not need to add quotation marks.
• If I paraphrase an entire paragraph, I only have to include a citation at the end of the paragraph.

True or False?
I changed most of the words to synonyms in my paraphrase. Since I used my own words, I do not need to add quotation marks.
If I paraphrase an entire paragraph, I only have to include a citation at the end of the paragraph.
True or False?

• If I find something through Google, it’s okay to copy and paste it, as long as I provide the web site address.
• False
• The ability to find and copy information does not equate to learning.
True or False?
If I put something in my own words, I don’t have to cite it.
• False
• You are still borrowing the ideas, so citation is still necessary.

Even if you use your own words, you are still borrowing the thoughts and/or ideas, so citation is still needed.
True or False?

• I just read a bunch of different things on the internet. I didn’t really borrow anything specific, so I don’t need to have citation.
• False.
• As an academic scholar, it is your responsibility to engage in careful research and note-taking.
True or False?

I changed most of the words to synonyms in my paraphrase. Since I used my own words, I do not need to add quotation marks.

False.

A true paraphrase extracts the meaning from the original text. A paraphrase is typically longer than the original text.

True or False?
I changed most of the words to synonyms in my paraphrase. Since I used my own words, I do not need to add quotation marks.
False.
A true paraphrase extracts the meaning from the original text. It is also important to keep in mind that it is not actually paraphrasing unless you change both the words and sentence structure. Replacing words with synonyms is not effective paraphrasing. You must also completely change the sentence structure. A paraphrase is typically longer than the original text.
True or False

If I paraphrase an entire paragraph, I only have to include a citation at the end of the paragraph.
False.
Every sentence must be clearly attributed to its original source.
Examples of Plagiarism

As the definition of plagiarism indicates, failing to give appropriate credit (whether it is because you did not cite, did not effectively paraphrase, did not use quotation marks, or forgot where you found the information) gives the impression that the work in completely your own, original work. Here are some more specific examples of plagiarism:

A writer quilts a paper together from multiple webpages without citation.

A writer has a reference page but no in-text citations.

A writer changes a few words in a passage and cites it as a paraphrase. Additionally, recycling a paper from a previous class without both permission and revision to make is a new paper is also plagiarism.
Tip 1: Research Carefully

- Read the source several times.
- Take notes.
- If you borrow words verbatim, put them in quotation marks in your notes so that you know they are not your own.
- Record source information
  - “The Generic Reference”
  - Who, When, What, Where
Tip 2: Know When to Cite

Knowing when to cite something is fairly simple. You must cite if you borrow what someone else wrote, said, or created. This includes when you use someone’s exact wording (quotations), someone’s ideas (paraphrases and summaries), and illustrations of ideas (graphics or artwork).
Tip 3: Know How to Paraphrase

1. Use all of your own wording.
2. Use your own sentence structure.
3. Express the meaning of the source text.
4. Always cite the source.

Tip 3: Know How to Paraphrase

Knowing how to paraphrase is key to avoiding plagiarism because so much unintentional plagiarism occurs when writers don’t paraphrase adequately. Paraphrasing is a skill you have to develop with practice. It’s a strategy for using research-based information in your paper to illustrate or explain a point about a topic. To paraphrase, you take something another author wrote and rewrite it in your own style taking your own audience into consideration. This involves interpreting what the other author meant so you can express the same idea in your own words.

When the original wording is so poignant, poetic, or powerful that paraphrasing would change the meaning, you can quote instead, but there is almost always more than one way to say the same thing. If you felt sick, for example, you’d likely express this differently to your spouse or to your best friend than you would to your manager at work, a client you had an appointment with, or even your child.

In academic writing, paraphrasing is more common than quoting and more important because it shows your understanding of what you’ve read. It takes critical thinking to paraphrase. Since you are still borrowing someone’s idea, however, you have to let your readers know where that idea came from by citing it.

1. Use all of your own wording
2. Use your own sentence structure
3. Retain the meaning of the original source material, and
4. Always cite the source.
Tip 4: Know How to Cite APA Style

Paraphrases, summaries, and quotes are ways to use another author’s information in your writing, and in order to avoid plagiarism and to also show you are an ethical and credible researcher, you must attribute that information to the source with a citation. At KU, we use APA citation style, which has two parts: in-text citations and full reference citations.

In-text citations
- Use in the body of the paper
- Show what information comes from outside sources
- Include author and year for paraphrases/summaries
- Include author, year, and page (p.) or paragraph (para.) number for quotations

Full reference citations
- Place at the end of the document on a reference list
- Include enough information to lead the reader to the source
- Follow a standard structure

Short demonstration found [here](#)
Tip 5: Match In-Text and Reference Citations

Unintentional plagiarism often happens when the in-text citations don’t match with the full citations on the reference list at the end of the paper. The full citation is missing; the in-text citation is missing; or incorrect formatting prevents the reader from knowing what reference citation goes with what in-text citations. In-text citations and reference list citations must match.

First, every source used in-text must have a corresponding citation on the reference list, and every source listed on the reference list must be cited at least once in the text. The name given in the in-text citation should be the same name that is flush with the margin of the full citation. Since the full reference citations are alphabetized according to that name, and the citations use hanging indentations, when readers want more information about a source in the paper, they can flip to the reference list and easily scan down the margin of author names to find the corresponding full citation.
Tip 6: Use the 80/20 Principle

The final simple tip to avoid plagiarism is to make sure your paper isn’t merely a summary of your research. You want your paper to be original. A method for doing this is to make at least or about 80% of your paper your own ideas, interpretations, analyses, explanations, and descriptions of the topic or issue and the research you found on it. The other 20% would then be the paraphrases, quotes, and summaries that support those points and analyses. Research-based information provides evidence, examples, illustrations, and authority from experts in the field. But it’s your work as the author to contextualize the research-based information within an original discussion where your voice is the dominant one in the paper.
Two resources I recommend every academic writer at Kaplan have handy when writing an APA paper are Basic Citation Guidelines and Common Citations in APA Format. These resources cover all the basics of how to quote, paraphrase, and summarize, how to cite, and how to format APA citations.

**Citation Resources:**

- Basic Citation Guidelines
- Common Citations in Format: APA, 6th Edition
Connect with the KUWC’s 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.
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.
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.
Contact Information
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Write us at kuwc@kaplan.edu!

Workshops are recorded and recording links, with an accompanying PowerPoint, are posted on the Writing Center Workshops page after the workshop.

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