

# Citing Sources and Plagiarism

## Citing Sources

The ethics of research and academic communities demand that writers be credited for their work and their writing. To intentionally or unintentionally appropriate the ideas, language, or work of another without sufficient acknowledgement that such material is not one's own is plagiarism.

## Paraphrasing Material

- Use a statement that credits the source somewhere in the paraphrase or summary, e.g., According to Jonathan Kozol, ....
- Check your paraphrase or summary against the original text; correct any errors in content accuracy, and be sure to use quotation marks to set off any exact phrases from the original text
- Check your paraphrase or summary against sentence and paragraph structure, as copying those is also considered plagiarism.
- Put quotation marks around any unique words or phrases that you cannot or do not want to change, e.g., "savage inequalities" exist throughout our educational system (Kozol).

### Example:

During deep water foraging, buzzes are generally much shorter than in shallow water, with whales spending less than half of the time on the average prey pursuit. Buzzes in shallow dives are not only longer, suggesting that the whale is targeting a moving prey, but also more widely spaced in time, resulting in longer search times between prey encounters.

### Use and adaptation of material:

According to Teloni (2008), in deeper water whales spend less time pursuing prey and their buzzes are shorter than when they are pursuing prey in shallow water. In shallow water whales exhibit longer and more spaced out buzzes, which could indicate that they are pursuing moving prey.

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Teloni, V. (2008). Shallow food for deep divers: Dynamic foraging behavior of male sperm whales in a high latitude habitat. *Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology*, 354(1), 119-131.

### Explanation:

The writer has done a good job of paraphrasing but the structure and progression of detail is someone else's, the writer has acknowledged the source.

## Figures, Illustrations, Photos

### Source:

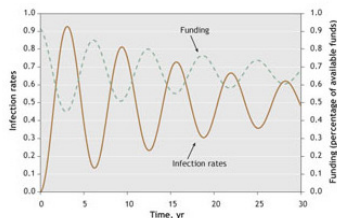


Figure 1: Researchers say that infectious diseases can be curbed through using of mathematical models demonstrating the correlation between infection rates, resource allocation and a disease's behaviours.

### Quote:

According to Mason (2008), "infectious diseases can be curbed through using of mathematical models demonstrating the correlation between infection rates, resource allocation and a disease's behaviors" (p. 2).

**Source Citation:** Mason, C. (2008). Mapping infectious diseases in Africa. *CMAJ: Canadian Medical Association Journal* 178(2), 137-138.

**Explanation:** Instead of creating an original chart or graph, the writer has used one from an outside source, therefore the chart or graph must be cited. If the writer had chosen to create an original chart, some of the facts might need citations.

Handout adapted 3/20/08 from: <http://nettrail.ucsc.edu/ethics/index.html>

# Citing Sources and Plagiarism

## Plagiarism

If you don't credit an author or by presenting the words or ideas of someone else as your own without proper acknowledgment of the source, you are committing a type of theft called plagiarism. When you work on a research paper you will probably find supporting material for your paper from works by others. It's okay to use the ideas of other people, but you do need to correctly credit them. When you quote people - or even when you summarize or paraphrase information found in books, articles, or Web pages - you must acknowledge the original author. It is plagiarism when you:

1. Buy or use a term paper written by someone else;
2. Cut and paste passages from the Web, a book, or an article and insert them into your paper without citing them.  
**Warning!** It is now easy to search and find passages that have been copied from the Web;
3. Use the words or ideas of another person without citing them;
4. Paraphrase that person's words without citing them;

## Tips for Avoiding Plagiarism:

1. First, use your own ideas - it should be your paper and your ideas that are the focus
2. Use the ideas of others sparingly - only to support or reinforce your own argument
3. When taking notes, include complete citation information for each item you use
4. Use quotation marks when directly stating another person's words

### Example:

Social historian Richard Sennett (1980) names the tendency to come to terms with difficult experiences a "purification process" whereby "threatening or painful dissonances are warded off to preserve intact a clear and articulated image of oneself and one's place in the world" (p. 11).

### Explanation:

Use the author's name in a signal phrase to introduce the quoted material, and place the date of the work in parentheses, immediately after the author's name. For a quotation, the page number, preceded by *p.*, appears in parentheses after the quotation.

**Unintentional plagiarism:** These mistakes can be difficult or impossible to prove are accidental. For example, if a writer paraphrases a source, edits it and then accidentally changes it to something too close to the original, or if the writer forgets to note the source of the idea or quote and then forgets it wasn't their own.

**Self-Plagiarism:** By turning in the same paper to two different classes, some faculty would consider that self plagiarism. It's best to check with your instructor or TA before doing this.

**General Knowledge:** You do not need to cite general knowledge, what constitutes general knowledge?  $E=MC^2$ , *Pride and Prejudice* was written by Jane Austen, WWI started in 1914.

**Citing Electronic Sources:** The Internet and other digital sources of information are widely used tools for research, but these resources are handled differently depending upon the discipline. It's always best to consult the style manual and/or accompanying website for your discipline first before consulting other sources. Other ways to determine the style you should use are to ask your instructor for guidelines or resources.

### Example of APA format:

Author, A. A., & Author, B. B. (Date of publication). Title of document. Retrieved month day, year, from <http://Web address>

**Library Resources:** Try online guides from the library at <http://library.ucsc.edu/science/sciref.html>, check out the resources below or use CRUZCAT to find more:

- Writing the research paper: a handbook with both the MLA and APA documentation styles: S&E REF LB2369 .W55 1999
- MLA handbook for writers of research papers: S&E Ref LB2369 .M53 2003
- Electronic styles : a handbook for citing electronic information: S&E Ref PN171.F56 L5 1996

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