



Citing and Plagiarism

Although how you should cite in your papers might differ from class to class and you should ask your professor about his or her preferences, ALWAYS be sure to cite! Especially when talking about someone else's view, you want to be very clear that it is *their* argument and not your own so that the responsibility for ideas is properly attributed to its sources. Even if you're just paraphrasing something that someone says, be sure to mark the page number(s) that the idea came from. Moreover, citing demonstrates that you're actually engaging with the author and if anyone feels that you have misinterpreted a view, he or she can refer back to the page that you've cited.

E.g. "John Stuart Mill claims that [BLAH] (Mill 14)."

According to the Committee on Academic Conduct (1994, p. 23), a student commits plagiarism by:

1. **Using another writer's *words* without proper citation.**

If you use another writer's words, you must place quotation marks around the quoted material and include a footnote or other indication of the source of the quotation.

2. **Using another writer's *ideas* without proper citation.**

When you use another author's ideas, you must use a citation to indicate where this information can be found. Your instructors want to know which ideas and judgments are yours and which you arrived at by consulting other sources. Even if you arrived at the same judgment on your own, you need to acknowledge that the writer you consulted also came up with the idea....

3. **Citing your source but reproducing the exact words of a printed source without quotation marks.**

This makes it appear that you have paraphrased rather than borrowed the author's exact words.

4. **Borrowing the structure of another author's phrases or sentences without crediting the author from whom it came.**

This kind of plagiarism usually occurs out of laziness: it is easier to replicate another writer's style than to think about what you have read and then put it in your own words. For example (Hacker, 1989, p. 171):

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

Unacceptable borrowing of words: An ape who knew sign language unsettled linguists and startled animal behaviorists.

Unacceptable borrowing of sentence structure: If the presence of a sign-language-using chimp was disturbing for scientists studying language, it was also surprising to scientists studying animal behavior.

Acceptable paraphrasing: When they learned of an ape's ability to use sign language, both linguists and animal behaviorists were taken by surprise.

5. **Borrowing all or part of another student's paper or using someone else's outline to write your own paper.**
6. **Using a paper writing "service" or having a friend write the paper for you.**

Regardless of whether you pay a stranger or have a friend do it, it is a breach of academic honesty to hand in work that is not your own or to use parts of another student's paper.



When in doubt, CITE! Plagiarism turns people into this upset crocodile!