

Plagiarism – What is it?

Plagiarism is using another person’s words, ideas, images, or creative works without giving that person credit. Whether or not it is intentional, plagiarism is considered an academic crime.

How to Avoid Plagiarism

A. QUOTATIONS

When using the exact words of an author, follow these steps:

1. Use quotation marks.
2. Introduce the quotation by stating where the quotation is from and connecting it with the purpose of your paragraph.
3. Cite the quotation properly in the text and on your works cited or reference page.

Quotation Example:

Original Source Material

We have to continually be jumping off cliffs and developing our wings on the way down.

Correct Quote

Kurt Vonnegut asserts, “We have to continually be jumping off cliffs and developing our wings on the way down” (5).

B. PARAPHRASES

When paraphrasing, follow these steps:

1. Put the material completely in your own words.
2. Introduce the paraphrase so that the reader knows where the paraphrase begins.
3. Cite the paraphrase properly in the text and on the works cited or reference page.

Paraphrasing Example 1:

Original Source Material

We have to continually be jumping off cliffs and developing our wings on the way down.

Appropriate Paraphrase

Kurt Vonnegut believes that we cannot really prepare ourselves but instead must take a blind leap and worry about learning to fly while we plummet (5).

Paraphrasing Example 2:

Original Source Material

High school grades and test scores are not the only factors considered by colleges and universities in the admissions process. **Other factors that influence** college admissions decisions include high school rank, being an athlete, alumni connection, extracurricular activities, **special talents, and other personal** characteristics of applicants.

NOT CORRECT: Paraphrase that does not differ enough and is considered plagiarism

William H. Gray notes that **high school grades and test scores are not the only factors considered by colleges and universities** in admissions decisions. **Other factors that influence** those decisions are high school rank, participating in athletics, connections to alumni, out-of-school activities, **special talents, and other personal** qualities of applicants (144).

Explanation

This paraphrase is plagiarism because it uses exact phrases from the source. (see bolded words).

NOT CORRECT: Paraphrase that changes what the author is trying to say

William Gray notes that participation in sports and involvement in extracurricular activities are the most important factors in the college admissions process (144).

CORRECT PARAPHRASE

William H. Gray notes that in addition to high school grades and test scores, elements affecting admission decisions made by most colleges and universities include an applicant's participation in sports, involvement in out-of-school activities, personal qualities, unique talents, relationships to alumni, and class rank (144).

Explanation

This appropriate paraphrase uses different words similar in meaning to those in the original source. It also uses different sentence structure.

For More Help:

- Come to the WRL Center Workshop **So, in Other Words...Paraphrasing & Summarizing.**
- Take the [Academic Integrity & Avoiding Plagiarism](#) tutorial on the MC Libraries website.

For Students

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