

# Discussion: Avoiding Plagiarism Statement

This Discussion Forum must be completed in order for students to access Module 1.

## Introduction and Class Policy Reminder

I enjoy being flexible wherever I can in this course. Nevertheless, I feel especially responsible to hold high standards with avoiding plagiarism. Each learning institution has their own policy with consequences if it appears students are plagiarizing. So, I don't want you to leave this class with a false understanding of how to avoid plagiarism to then find yourself experiencing harsh consequences. Even further, as you produce work in the world, it is important for your role as a professional that you know how to attribute others' ideas in your writing.

How shall you do this? In this course:

- **If you use a source that comes from my lessons**, you may clearly explain where you found the source in the paragraph where you introduce the idea.
- **If you use a source that comes from outside the lessons** you will need to apply APA or MLA citation style in **two places**:
  - **in the body of your essay**
  - **and in a works cited page.**

Below is the rubric found on the syllabus for citing and referencing:

<b>Citation requirements for any information that is not your original idea or knowledge</b>	<b>Points Deducted if not present: Assignment</b>	<b>Points Deducted if not present: Discussion</b>
<b>1. Within your essay/discussion</b>  If source is from outside of the lessons: use APA or MLA style citation  If source is found in the lessons: reference in paragraph that allows reader to find the source	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2. At the end of your essay/discussion</b>  If source is from outside of the lessons: use an APA or MLA style Works Cited list, in alphabet order, that corresponds with each citation within your essay.  If source is found in the lessons: none is necessary	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>

I have found that students arrive to my classes with varied preparedness in avoiding plagiarism and in citing outside sources, so I want to be sure we are all on the same page before moving forward. While you may use either MLA or APA style, this lesson only refers to APA. If you are not familiar with these styles, it will be crucial that you become familiar with the basics of either, in order to do well in this class.

## Instructions for Discussion Post

To unlock Module 1, please follow these instructions:

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### Step One:

Below are two videos and notes from me that will clarify what plagiarism is, and how to make APA citations in your paper to avoid it. As you watch, please take note of anything that is not clear to you. You will have a chance to ask questions about this material next.

- Video 1: [10 Types of Plagiarism \[YouTube\]](#)
- Video 2: [APA In-Text Citations Made Easy \[YouTube\]](#)

For this class, I do not need you to apply the entire APA or MLA package to your papers. (You'll find that includes a cover page, formatting specs, an executive summary, etc.) I just need you to use APA as your tool as you do due diligence in citing your outside sources.

So, when you use sources outside of the lessons, I just need two pieces of APA or MLA:

1. Citations in the body of your essay after every piece of information that is not from your own brain
2. A works cited list that matches the entries within those parentheses citations in your essay.

Here's an image of what I mean:

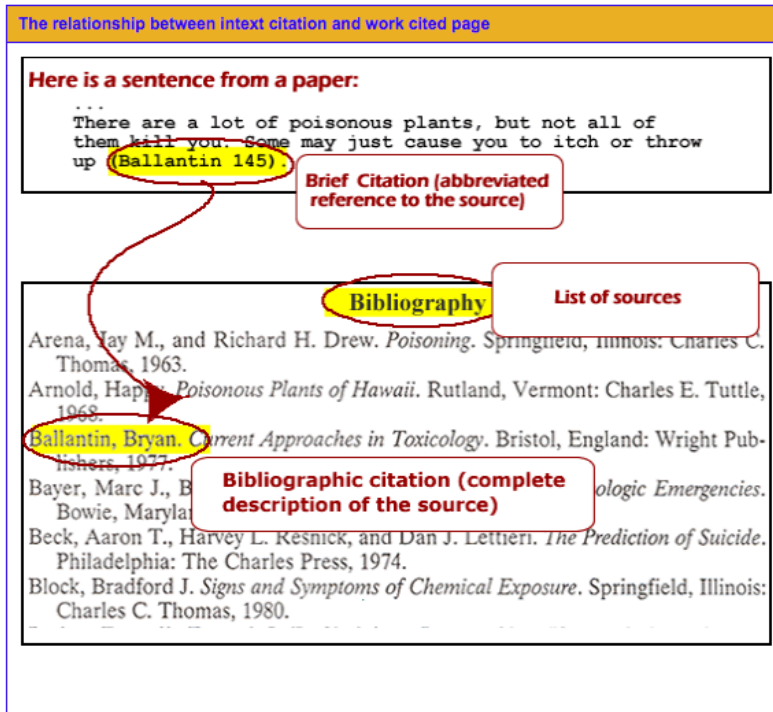


Figure: example of APA

Please don't rely on automatic bibliography generators. They might get you started, but be sure that what's in your works cited list corresponds to what you've entered in the essay (like what's above).

Again, I'm not looking for perfect APA details. I do need to see that you are following the general format, however. If you make sure you have followed these two rules you will not be deducted points:

1. you are acknowledging your sources in your writing using APA or MLA
2. that when I find a source listed in your essay I can find the entry in the works cited page because it corresponds to what is cited in your essay (like the image above)

More resources:

- For guidance on avoiding plagiarism, go to: <http://www.plagiarism.org/>
- Don't forget to use the [Purdue OWL site](#) I provided in the syllabus
- The PCC Library has [this set of research pages](#)
- The [PCC Writing Centers](#)

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**You can post questions here on this forum, and find this info on the syllabus.**

### **Step Two**

Post to this forum: **Avoiding Plagiarism**. Start a new thread, and do one of the following:

- If you have questions about anything covered in the presentation, this is your opportunity to ask me questions. I'll be happy to clarify until you become confident in how to avoid plagiarism.
- If you are confident about this material, post this statement: *"I understand all that was covered in the Course Information Module about avoiding plagiarism and will apply this when completing assignments."*

**I will need to receive this statement from you before Module 1 is released and I can grade any of your assignments.**