

## HOW TO AVOID PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is basically stealing someone's ideas without giving any references. While writing we can sometimes need other ideas to improve ours. I actually ALWAYS need other ideas, not because I do not have any ideas (I hope it is not), I sometimes lack information, or need to support my ideas. Actually mentioning other ideas in our texts- especially clarified information or trustworthy sources like university presses- makes our texts much more reliable. I mean I write essays and give some pieces of information, but why would you trust me? So this is why we need quotations, but how can we give quotations without stealing them? Okay, okay I will tell you how.

First, DO NOT COPY AND PASTE. I think this is the most important step. Copying and pasting is the easiest way. You have homework, you search for it, you find the information, you copy it and paste it. NO! You can copy and paste as long as you cite whom and where you took it from but believe me, when you copy and paste it looks apart from the text that you wrote on your own. Everybody has their own voice, and using another person's text that is written with their own voice does not look good on your paper. So what are you going to do?

REPHRASING! You found information and it fits your text, and you do not want to copy and paste. You can rephrase it with your own words. Use your voice. Have your own writing style. At the beginning, it can seem like you can not write anything without copying and pasting, but believe me as a person who has been writing for almost two years and did not have any writing experience before, you will find your own voice. Just keep practicing.

GIVE REFERENCES! So you took an idea and fit it into your text. Congratulations you did a great job, but it did not finish- I am sorry-. What you are going to do is to give references. There are styles of giving citations. ( We do it according to APA 7 style, but your teacher might want another so ask them before you give any citations). If you do not give any references -EVEN IF YOU REPHRASED IT WITH YOUR OWN WORDS- I am sorry but it is stealing.

GIVE YOUR REFERENCES CORRECTLY! There are many websites that you can check if you gave your references correctly or not. Do not be shy, use them. Double-check your references. If you do not give your references, and citations correctly, I am sorry but it is also stealing :(.

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## REFERENCES

Avoiding plagiarism - The University of Nottingham. (n.d.).

<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studyingeffectively/referencing/plagiarism/index.aspx>