

# Plagiarism: Understand It & Avoid It

## Video Transcript

Reynolds Libraries presents - Plagiarism: Understand It and Avoid It

Let's Dive into Plagiarism: Your professor assigns a research project and warns the class to avoid plagiarism.

But what is plagiarism?

Plagiarism is . . . using another person's ideas or words without clearly acknowledging or citing the source of that information.

Some examples of plagiarism are . . .

- Turning in someone else's work as your own
- Paying someone else to write an assignment or do the work for you
- Cutting & pasting sections from another person's work into your own paper
- Not placing quotation marks around another person's direct quote
- Not including in-text or full citations in your paper.

Is using an AI chatbot, like Chat GPT, considered plagiarism?

Using information retrieved from an AI chatbot without properly citing where it came from . . . is considered plagiarism.

Are AI chatbots considered a credible resource?

AI chatbots gather information from a wide variety of sources . . .

This may or may not lead to credible information, because . . . You won't always know where information is coming from.

For college research assignments . . . use credible resources from the library like books and scholarly articles.

Always ask your professor if AI chatbots are allowed as resources for your assignment.

What will happen if I plagiarize?

There are academic consequences for plagiarizing.

According to Reynolds Community College's Academic Dishonesty Policy No. 2-7, plagiarism may result in:

- An incomplete, low or failing grade for the course
- Suspension from the college
- Expulsion from the college

But I want to avoid plagiarism!

OK, let's focus on how to avoid plagiarism: STOP Plagiarism

Did you know that . . . Simply giving credit to the sources you use . . . Is the best way to avoid plagiarism!

Here's how to get it done . . .

You must give credit whenever you use: another person's idea, opinion or theory

You must give credit whenever you use: Direct quotes from another person's actual spoken or written words

You must give credit whenever you use: Paraphrase a passage from another person's spoken or written words

Also, give credit whenever you use: Multimedia created by another person (like photos, drawings, film clips, music, etc.)

And give credit whenever you use: Any piece of information that is not common knowledge (e.g., fact, figure, statistic, chart)

Now what is common knowledge?

Common knowledge is knowledge that is publicly known by everyone or nearly everyone.

Common knowledge examples: The sky is blue; George Washington was the first president of the U.S.

Common knowledge DOES NOT need to be cited.

But what about direct quotes?

Direct quotes need to be cited! "Here is a direct quote." -Jane Smith

For a direct quote, make sure you: Place quotations marks around the direct quote

Include an in-text citation after the direct quote. "Here's a direct quote"(Smith 8).

Include the full citation in your bibliography list at the end of your paper

Let's see APA & MLA examples on how to cite a direct quote . . .

In-text citation - APA style:

"The accumulation of heavy metals in the body has been demonstrated to have an adverse effect on human health" (Fu & Xi, 2020, p. 167).

In-text citation - MLA style:

"The accumulation of heavy metals in the body has been demonstrated to have an adverse effect on human health" (Fu and Xi 167).

And don't forget the full citation . . .

Reference - APA style:

Fu, Z., & Xi, S. (2020). The effects of heavy metals on human metabolism.

Toxicology Mechanisms & Methods, 30(3), 167–176.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/15376516.2019.1701594>

Works Cited - MLA style:

Fu, Zhushan, and Shuhua Xi. "The Effects of Heavy Metals on Human Metabolism."

Toxicology Mechanisms & Methods, vol. 30, no. 3, Mar. 2020, pp. 167–76.

Academic Search Complete, <https://doi.org/10.1080/15376516.2019.1701594>.

And what about paraphrasing?

If you paraphrase a specific section from a source, make sure to:

- Use your OWN WORDS. Changing just a few words from the source is not paraphrasing.
- Include an in-text citation after the paraphrase
- Include the full citation in the bibliography listing at the end of the paper.

Let's see APA & MLA examples on how to cite a paraphrase . . .

In-text citation - APA style:

The study measured contaminated soil levels found in samples from 16 types of heavy metals collected from sewage sites in Saudia Arabia (Alnuwaiser, 2022, p. 2).

In-text citation - MLA style:

The study measured contaminated soil levels found in samples from 16 types of heavy metals collected from sewage sites in Saudia Arabia (Alnuwaiser 2).

And don't forget the full citation . . .

Reference - APA style:

Alnuwaiser, M. A. (2022). Evaluation of heavy metals in soil wastewater stream. International Journal of Analytical Chemistry, 1–11.

<https://doi.org/10.1155/2022/2522840>

Works Cited - MLA style:

Alnuwaiser, Maha Abdallah. "Evaluation of Heavy Metals in Soil Wastewater Stream." International Journal of Analytical Chemistry, Sept. 2022, pp. 1–11. Academic Search Complete, <https://doi.org/10.1155/2022/2522840>.

Other tips to avoid plagiarism:

Start your research early!

- Save digital copies of sources including the citations whenever possible.
- Most library databases allow you to email copies of articles to yourself.
- Take & keep accurate notes of the sources you use.

Ahah!

Now I know how to avoid plagiarism!

If you need help with paraphrasing, reach out to the Reynolds Writing Studio - [WritingStudio@reynolds.edu](mailto:WritingStudio@reynolds.edu), 804-523-5723

If you need help along the way . . .

Reach out to our trained librarians!

How?

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And take advantage of our Chat Now service offered 24/7. A Chat Now button is located to the left of any Reynolds Libraries page.

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