

Avoiding Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined as using someone else's work as your own without providing proper documentation. In short, it is intellectual theft, and the punishment ranges from a zero on the assignment to expulsion. The policy is outlined in the River Oaks Handbook.

Researching Databases

As discussed in class, MOST of your secondary sources need to come from "scholarly," or "peer-reviewed" journals. The best source for journal articles is a subscription database like the following:

- **JSTOR**
- **EBSCOhost: Literary Reference Center**
- **Literature Resource Center**

All of the above are available to ULM students, and you can access them from off-campus. To log in, go to the ULM library's website and navigate to databases. Use your **CWID** to log in.

You can also access the databases from within the library:

1. Go to computer lab on the first floor
2. Access the database through the library's website
3. Use keyword search terms related to your topic/thesis
4. Download the PDF of the article
5. Save As (I use the author's last name) to your USB drive

Using Sources

When using quotes in your papers, remember to *introduce* and *integrate* all sources. Failing to do so creates a "dropped" quote and can lead to unclear transitions between ideas. One way to ensure a quote is not "dropped" into the text is to use a **signal phrase** – or, a phrase that introduces the quote. Signal phrases identify the author and/or source for the quote or summary and often establish the author's credibility.

When citing four or more lines of typed text, your quote must be formatted as a freestanding **block quote**. Follow these basic rules:

1. Introduce the quote with a full-sentence signal phrase followed by a colon
2. Start the quote at the line below, indenting the entire quote 1" (two tab spaces) from the left
3. Omit the quotation marks (not needed for block quotes)

4. Add the end punctuation *before* the citation (only time this happens)
5. Follow the quote with a sentence of explanation, starting at the margin

Sometimes, you might need to make a quote fit into the syntax of your sentence by changing some of the language from the original quote. Enclose any changed letters, words, or phrases in **square brackets**. This includes ellipses for missing text.

Citing Databases

Note that you should be organizing yourself as you go. A key part of this is your folder and note cards. It's helpful to staple each source and attach a note card to the top left corner; this is where you will create a bibliographic citation for the source. Also, I highly suggest that you at least skim a source before you print it. This keeps the clutter down to a minimum and ensures that your sources are relevant.

Finally, to cite all sources, use the [MLA Guide from UNC](#) or [Purdue's OWL](#). All of the forms for in-text citation and your works cited page are available through drop-down menus. Below is the form for **citing an online database**:

author of source: last name first	title of article	journal title	volume, issue	year	page numbers	
Heyen, William.	"Sunlight."	<i>American Poetry Review</i>	36.2	(2007):	55-56.	<i>Expanded</i>
date of access:						
database name	medium	inverted				
<i>Academic ASAP.</i>	Web.	24 Sept. 2009.				