



APSU Writing Center

Plagiarism and Citing Sources

Plagiarism and Citing Sources

Resource: *The LB Brief Handbook*, 5th edition

- **Citing** is giving credit for information from a source that you use in the body of your paper. Failure to cite constitutes **plagiarism**.
- According to the **LB Brief** book by Jane Aaron from page 425, plagiarism “is the presentation of someone else’s work as your own. Whether deliberate or accidental, plagiarism is a serious offense. It breaks trust, and it undermines or even destroys your credibility as a researcher and writer. In most colleges, a code of academic honesty calls for severe consequences for plagiarism: a reduced or failing grade, suspension from school, or expulsion.”
- The *LB Brief* book, pg. 426, describes the following forms of plagiarism as:
 - **Deliberate plagiarism**
 - Copying or downloading a phrase, a sentence, or a longer passage from a source and passing it off as your own by omitting quotation marks and a source citation.
 - Summarizing or paraphrasing someone else’s ideas without acknowledging your debt in a source citation.
 - Handing in as your own work a paper you have bought, copied off the Web, had a friend write, or accepted from another student.
 - **Accidental plagiarism**
 - Reading a wide variety of print or Web sources on a subject without taking notes on them, and then not remembering the difference between what you recently learned and what you already knew.
 - Forgetting to place quotation marks around another writer’s words.
 - Carelessly omitting a source citation for a paraphrase.
 - Omitting a source citation for another’s idea because you are unaware of the need to acknowledge the idea.
- In addition, another form of plagiarism is called **self plagiarism**, which is using an essay or research paper from a previous course assignment, changing the date and course name, etc., then turning it in for another course.
- In order to prevent plagiarism, **ALWAYS** cite your sources.
- What sources must be cited? ideas that are not your own researched information statistics, graphics, etc., that you did not experimentally compile or personally create direct quotes information that you chose to paraphrase or summarize -Even though you are using your own words, you are using someone else’s ideas; therefore, you still have to cite that source.



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- What sources must be cited?
 - ideas that are not your own
 - researched information
 - statistics, graphics, etc., that you did not experimentally compile or personally create
 - direct quotes
 - information that you chose to paraphrase or summarize
 - Even though you are using your own words, you are using someone else's ideas; therefore, you still have to cite that source.

- What sources need not be cited?
 - one's own independent material
 - observations
 - thoughts
 - compilations of facts
 - experimental results

 - common knowledge
 - standard information
 - **Example:** facts of history, dates, and corresponding major events
 - **Incorrect Example:** historian's interpretation/analysis of events

 - common sense observations most people know about
 - **Example:** humans must breathe in and out to survive
 - **Incorrect Example:** The process of breathing in is called inhalation and the person inhales oxygen; whereas, the process of breathing out is called exhalation and the person exhales carbon dioxide.