

# TOP TIPS FOR **AVOIDING PLAGIARISM**

Start Early

Use the Correct Style

Learn What  
Plagiarism Is

Refine Your Skills

Do Your Research

Avoid Common  
Errors

Organize Your  
Research

Check Your Work

Reference Your  
Research

Learn From Each  
Experience

# TOP TIPS FOR AVOIDING PLAGIARISM



## START EARLY

Review the assignment instructions and rubric to learn about the writing, research, and referencing requirements. Starting early will help reduce the stress you may feel about the assignment and improve your confidence as you write it.

## LEARN WHAT PLAGIARISM IS

Plagiarism is when you use an author's words or ideas as your own without acknowledging where the information came from. Plagiarism is a breach of academic integrity and can have serious consequences.

## DO YOUR RESEARCH

Use credible, up-to-date sources such as course materials, books, scholarly articles, and reputable websites. Develop your research skills by learning how to use library resources instead of relying on Google searches.

## ORGANIZE YOUR RESEARCH

Create an assignment folder with the instructions, rubric, notes, and writing drafts. Use a Research Notes form for each source. Take careful notes and include a plan for using the information.

## REFERENCE YOUR RESEARCH

Reference each time you quote, paraphrase, summarize, or include statistics or images to show where that information came from. Include an in-text citation after the information and the details for each source on a References or Works Cited page at the end of your paper.

## USE THE CORRECT STYLE

APA and MLA are two of the most common citation styles. Do not try to memorize all the rules. Follow your professor's instructions and use a citation style guide to reference correctly.

## REFINE YOUR SKILLS

Learning how to paraphrase, summarize, and quote correctly can improve your writing and help you avoid plagiarism. Developing these skills takes time and practice, but doing so will let you integrate research into your paper and distinguish it from your opinion.

## AVOID COMMON ERRORS

Don't overuse quotations. Use signal phrases such as 'The author explains' or 'According to' to introduce researched information. Do not reference common knowledge or your opinion. When in doubt, though, it is safer to reference.

## CHECK YOUR WORK

Refer to the rubric to ensure you have met the requirements and referenced correctly. When using an automatic citation generator, check for accuracy by comparing the entries to those in a citation guide available from the library.

## LEARN FROM EACH EXPERIENCE

Pay attention to the feedback you receive and speak with your professor to learn more. Consider what you did well and what you could improve upon the next time so you don't repeat your mistakes. Get help when you need it.

## CONTACT US

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