



Academic Integrity and Avoiding Plagiarism

Webinar Presentation

How to use this recording

- Watch the video
 - Do the activities
 - Download the slides: <http://tinyurl.com/slideswebinar>
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Overview

The goals of this video are to:

- Understand what academic integrity and plagiarism mean
- Learn strategies for avoiding plagiarism including paraphrasing and referencing
- See what good notetaking, paraphrasing and referencing look like



What is academic integrity?

Academic integrity means honest and responsible scholarship, particularly in relation to assessment tasks.

Maintaining your academic integrity involves:

- Creating and expressing your own ideas
 - Acknowledging all sources of information
 - Completing assignments independently or acknowledging collaboration
 - Accurately reporting results when conducting your own research
 - Honesty during examinations
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What is plagiarism?

Plagiarism means presenting the words or ideas of another person as one's own without appropriate acknowledgement.

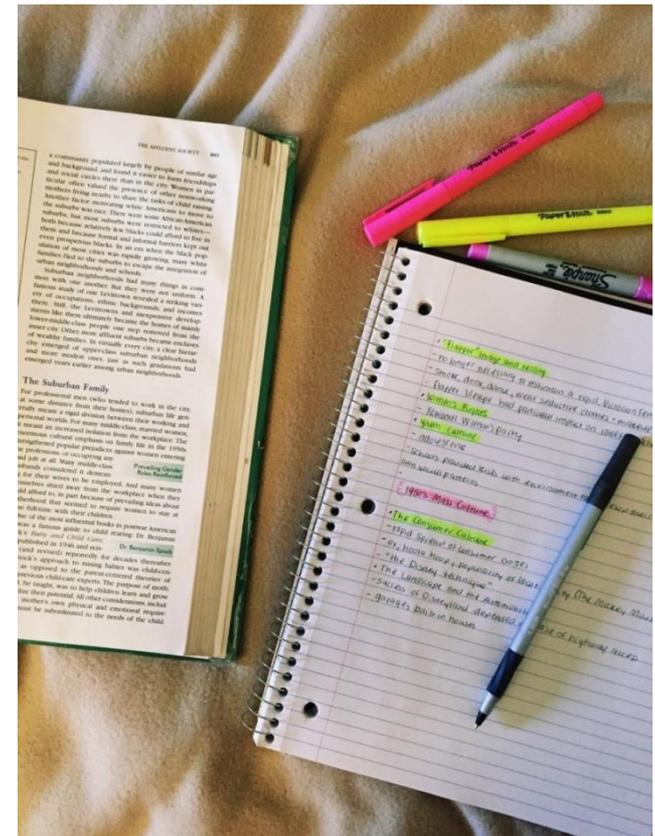
This may include:

- too closely paraphrasing sentences, paragraphs or ideas
- copying the work of others without acknowledgement
- submitting your own previously submitted or assessed work without permission
- submitting work which has been produced by someone else and claiming authorship for it

Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional.

What can students do to avoid plagiarism in their work?

1. Take good notes
2. Paraphrase and summarise well
3. Reference accurately
4. Keep direct quotes to a minimum
5. Use Turnitin to your advantage



1. Take good notes

- Read the material carefully, then put the text aside and take some time to think about what you've read. Write down the main ideas in your own words, and then, use your notes to create a first draft.
- Avoid copying straight from a source. If you write directly from a source into a draft, it can increase the chance that you will unintentionally plagiarise.
- Make sure you record information about the source and/or keep a copy of it so that you can reference it properly later on.



Example of good note taking

Original information

For most people, it is not easy to make an appointment and then go to see a counsellor. Although attitudes are starting to change, many people still hold the view that it is a sign of weakness if people need outside help in order to be able to cope with their problems.

Student's notes

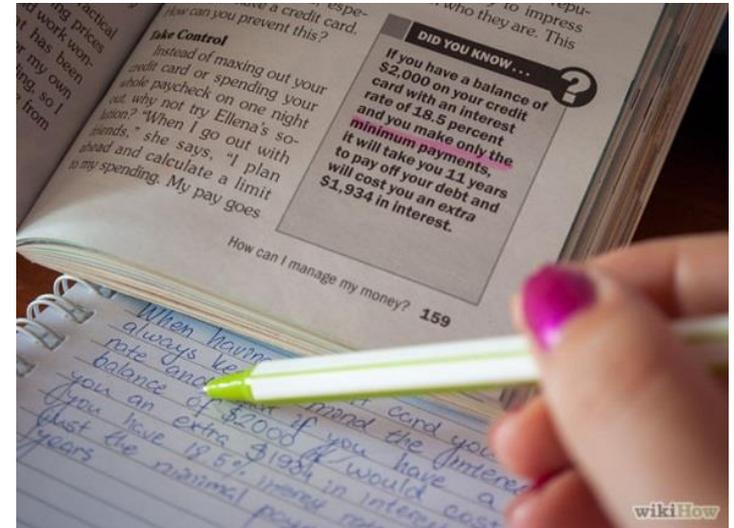
- Making an appointment is difficult for many
- People still see it is a sign of weakness if a person seeks help – but views are changing
- Info for reference: Authors – D. Geldard, & K. Geldard. Year – 2012.
Book title – Basic personal counselling: A training manual for counsellors.
Publishing info – Frenchs Forest, Australia, Pearson Education.

2. Paraphrase and summarise well

Paraphrasing is when you express ideas and information from your sources in your own way, using your own words.

To paraphrase, use a combination of the following:

- use synonyms or antonyms
- vary the sentence structure
- change the order of information
- change long sentences into short ones (and vice versa)
- change abstract ideas into concrete ones
- highlight the view of the author using reporting verbs



Example of paraphrasing

Original information

For most people, it is not easy to make an appointment and then go to see a counsellor. Although attitudes are starting to change, many people still hold the view that it is a sign of weakness if people need outside help in order to be able to cope with their problems.

Source: Geldard, D. & Geldard, K. (2012) *Basic personal counselling: A training manual for counsellors*. Frenchs Forest, Australia: Pearson Education.

Paraphrase

Arranging an appointment with a counsellor is difficult for many people. While views are changing, it is commonly thought that people should be able to cope with their issues without help, and that going to counselling shows a lack of strength to deal with problems (Geldard & Geldard, 2012).

Example of paraphrasing

Original information

For most people, it is not easy to make an appointment and then go to see a counsellor. Although attitudes are starting to change, many people still hold the view that it is a sign of weakness if people need outside help in order to be able to cope with their problems.

Source: Geldard, D. & Geldard, K. (2012) *Basic personal counselling: A training manual for counsellors*. Frenchs Forest, Australia: Pearson Education.

Paraphrase

Arranging an appointment with a counsellor is difficult for many people. While views are changing, it is commonly thought that people should be able to cope with their issues without help, and that going to counselling shows a lack of strength to deal with problems (Geldard & Geldard, 2012).

Activity

Read the sentence below from an article published in 2000 by Barbara Jones and Erica Frydenberg and paraphrase it using some of the strategies discussed.

Stress and anxiety for students is often associated with social factors such as loneliness, financial problems and limited time available for their family and friends.

Social factors including loneliness, money issues and limited time for socialising can make students feel stressed and anxious (Jones & Frydenberg, 2000).

Paraphrasing vs. plagiarising

Q: If you follow the original sentence structure while replacing occasional words with synonyms, are you paraphrasing?

A: No. Just changing a few words here or there or rearranging words or sentences is not paraphrasing; this is plagiarism.

Q: Do you need a reference if you paraphrase?

A: Yes. Even though you are not borrowing any language, you will still need to cite the source to indicate that you are borrowing ideas.

3. Reference accurately

In academic writing, it is essential to state the sources of ideas and information. This is known as referencing, and it allows readers to refer back to the sources for themselves.



You must give a reference whenever you draw on a source of information:

- as the source of a particular theory, argument or viewpoint
- for specific information, such as statistics, examples, or case studies
- for information which you paraphrase
- for direct quotations (reproducing the writer's exact words)

Examples of in-text referencing

1. At the beginning of the sentence

Youssef (2013) argues that long-term unemployment can have significant effects on a young person.

According to Youssef (2013), long-term unemployment can have significant effects on a young person.

2. At the end of the sentence

Long-term unemployment can have significant effects on a young person (Youssef, 2013).

Research indicates that long-term unemployment can have significant effects on a young person (Youssef, 2013).

Activity

Reference the sentence below from Dimka (2012) using one of the referencing techniques (the sentence has already been paraphrased).

There is a need to improve the physical wellbeing of people with mental health problems.

Dimka (2012) argues that there is a need to improve the physical wellbeing of people with mental health problems.

There is a need to improve the physical wellbeing of people with mental health problems (Dimka, 2012).

4. Keep direct quotes to a minimum

- A direct quote means to use the author's exact words.
- Direct quotes are usually appropriate when you want to give a precise definition of something or when an author has expressed something in a unique and powerful way.
- However, your assignment should be written in your own words as much as possible.
- Direct quotes have particular formatting requirements so the reader can clearly see it is a quotation and not your own words. Here is an example:

Cololey (2015) argues that combining family therapy and positive psychology is “culturally sensitive, growth oriented, and hope enhancing” (p. 70).

Activity

Incorporate the definition below into a sentence as a direct quote. The definition is from page 67 of an article by Jodi Halpern published in 2003.

Empathy is a mode of understanding that specifically involves emotional resonance.

Halpern (2003) defines empathy as “a mode of understanding that specifically involves emotional resonance” (p. 67).

Empathy is defined as “a mode of understanding that specifically involves emotional resonance” (Halpern, 2003, p. 67).

5. Use Turnitin to your advantage

- Turnitin compares student assignments with a range of sources including the internet, electronic journals, books and other student assignments which have been submitted previously through Turnitin.
- Students are able to submit a draft assignment through Turnitin to receive an originality report and are then able to review and rework the assignment prior to final submission.
- Turnitin should be seen as a formative and educative tool.



Arranging an appointment with a counsellor is difficult for many people. While views are changing, it is commonly thought that people should be able to cope with their issues without help, and that going to counselling shows a lack of strength to deal with problems (Geldard & Geldard, 2012). Several studies have highlighted that this is particularly the case for young people. For example, Prior (2012) interviewed high school students who had completed a course of counselling at school and found they felt there was stigma around seeing the school counsellor. The students reported that they went through “a complex process of negotiation and evaluation” as to whether they should engage in school counselling (Prior, 2012, p. 12). This highlights the need to reduce the stigma associated with seeing a counsellor, so that people feel comfortable about seeking help.

Reference List

Geldard, D. & Geldard, K. (2012). *Basic personal counselling: A training manual for counsellors*. Frenchs Forest, Australia: Pearson Education.

Prior, S. (2012). Young people’s process of engagement in school counselling. *Counselling and Psychotherapy Research*, 12(3), 233-240.

Idea has been paraphrased well

Paraphrased information is referenced according to APA style

Student has added a sentence to show the link between the two sources using their own words

Study has been summarised in the student’s own words

Direct quote is put within quotation marks and referenced according to APA style

Student has provided their own comment on the ideas in this paragraph in their own words.

Sources mentioned in-text are referenced in full in the reference list according to APA style

Checklist to help prevent plagiarism

Make sure you have:

- Paraphrased correctly and included a reference to clearly indicate the parts of your work that are drawn from another person's work.
- Used direct quotations sparingly.
- Provided a reference for every image, figure or table (unless you created it).
- Included a reference list of all work cited.
- Kept a copy of the original sources that you have referenced.
- NOT used copy and paste to take text from another source (unless it is a direct quote and you reference it).
- NOT used another student's work, or submitted someone's work as your own.
- NOT copied from a previous assignment submitted to this or any other unit.

Useful links

ACAP students: <http://www.acap.edu.au/current-students/managing-my-course/a-z-policies/>

HSA students: <http://www.healthskills.com.au/studying-at-hsa/study-essentials/hsa-assessment-information/>

NCPS students: <http://www.ncps.edu.au/policies-and-forms/>

Other relevant SLS webinars

- Academic integrity: What's Turnitin got to do with it?
 - Paraphrase Your Way to the Top
 - Referencing Starter Pack
 - Referencing Online Sources
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More help and information

Contact the Student Learning Support Team for more help and advice on academic integrity and avoiding plagiarism.

Sydney and online students contact:

(02) 8236 8062 or (02) 8236 8051 / learningsupportsyd@acap.edu.au

Melbourne and Adelaide students contact:

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Brisbane students contact:

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