

Citing Your Work and Avoiding Plagiarism

Direct citations have the ability to spice up your work, connect your thoughts to your topic and provide examples of the idea that wants to be transmitted.

In order to better understand how to avoid plagiarism, it is important to understand three important concepts:

Plagiarism is the copying or close imitation of another author's language, thoughts, ideas, or expressions and claiming it as one's own original work.

Direct Citation is when a phrase, sentence or more from another literary piece is quoted exactly how it appears. When direct quotes are used should always provide quotations marks (“”) and pages numbers.

Paraphrasing is restating a text using other words. This should also be properly documented.

Example of direct citation in MLA format:

“What, then, was the origin of the Nero's legendary concert? . . . Historians have provided several interpretations of the genesis event” (Smith 33).

- When incorporating a direct quote into your text always use quotation marks, followed by parenthesis in which you will add the last name of the author, a single space, followed by the page from which the quote was retrieved. Remember to add a period after the parenthesis.

Paraphrasing: when paraphrasing it is still important to give credit to the author who provided the original idea. Follow the same example as seen in the direct citation format, with the exception of the use of quotation marks.

- Remember to always site any information that is not considered part of general knowledge. Statements such as: **The sky is blue and contains clouds.**

True or False: **Determine if the following sentences are presented correctly.**

___1) “The student parked his car far away from the Admissions Building” (Walker 23)

___2) “There is a great deal of difference between an eager man who wants to read a book and a tired man who wants a book to read: (Chesterton 35)

___3) 83% of the children who live in the Japan go to school six days a week.

___4) I was watching television with my parents until I remembered to finish my assignment.