

A GUIDE TO AVOIDING PLAGIARISM

To succeed in Academic Writing, students must avoid plagiarism. While most students know that plagiarism is wrong, accidental plagiarism occurs more often than some realize. Learn how to succeed academically by avoiding plagiarism below.

Regent University (2017) defines plagiarism as “using the intellectual property (e.g., books, articles, artwork, movies, drawings, ideas, and photos) of others without proper citation thereby giving the impression that it is the students own work” (p. 42).

HOW TO AVOID PLAGIARISM:

1. **Start Your Research Early** - If you rush through research steps, your paper may contain more typos, misplaced quotation marks, and inadequate paraphrasing. Without proper paraphrases or citations, your readers cannot distinguish your ideas from the source’s ideas.
2. **Create a List** – To fix this, create a list of your sources and their viewpoints. Use this list as a reference when you check materials and paraphrases in your paper (MLA 61).
3. **Take Detailed Notes** – Make sure your list contains detailed notes. Whether you take notes by hand or on the computer, make sure you organize them well and label your unique ideas, paraphrases, and direct quotes from sources (MLA 61). *Do not rely on your own memory!*
4. **Maintain a Working Bibliography** – Create a Working Bibliography, i.e. a list of potential sources, and compile them as you conduct your research as well. This list changes as you eliminate and add sources. The Working Bibliography includes accurate citations formatted according to your style manual (Turabian, MLA, or APA). It becomes your Bibliography, also known as a Works Cited or Reference page respectively (MLA 31).
5. **Integrate your Sources** – This concept is called Ghost Writing. By integrating your sources into your sentences directly, you clearly distinguish your source’s voice from your own. Ghost Writing also strengthens your credibility, protects you if a source becomes discredited, and forces the audience to argue with your sources logic, not yours. Please utilize our “Ghost Writing” handout to learn more about this concept.

PRACTICE NOW