

---

---

# Citation: How to Avoid Plagiarism

— The Writing Center at Oklahoma  
State University, Fall 2015 —

---

---

# What is Plagiarism?

Plagiarism: Presenting the written, published or creative work of another as the student's own work (OSU Academic Affairs)

Examples: paying someone else to write a paper for you, copying someone's text without using quotation marks, paraphrasing someone else's words with attributing the idea to them.

Watch: <http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/why-we-cite/>

# How do you avoid this? Cite your sources!

You need to ICE every piece of outside information you include in your writing:

**I**nroduce: Miller argues... According to the Center for Disease Control...

**C**ite: Depending on the academic style required, include a parenthetical or a footnote directing to the source. (Miller 36), (Miller, 2015)

**E**xplain: In your own words, tell your reader why this information is important and how it relates to the main idea of your paper.

Watch: <http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/how-we-cite/>

# Quoting vs. Paraphrasing

When you're using the exact words of your source, surround the text with quotation marks: “ “

When you describing someone else's idea in your own words, you do not need to put quote marks, but you need to name the source in a citation.

Passages that express an opinion or emotion specific to an author should be quoted: Davis argues that “Pluto should become a planet again.”

Specific facts, such an event or data from a study can be paraphrased: Pluto was discovered on February 18. 1930 (Davis, 2014).

Large chunks of text can be paraphrased to be made shorter.

You can quote just a few words of a passage by embedding it in a paraphrased sentence: In Walter's opinion, changing the planet status of Pluto was “disrespectful to history” (2014).

# MLA Style

Modern Language Association: used in the Humanities, such as literature and media studies, emphasizes the author's name.

Examples:

Not only linguists were surprised by the study, "it was also startling news for animal behaviorists" (Davis 26).

"He was obeyed," writes Joseph Conrad of the company manager in *Heart of Darkness*, "yet he inspired neither love nor fear, nor even respect" (87).

# APA Style

American Psychological Association: more often used in the sciences, emphasizes the year the source was published.

Examples:

As Davis (1978) reported, "If the existence of a signing ape was unsettling for linguists, it was also startling news for animal behaviorists" (p. 26).

When they learned of an ape's ability to use sign language, both linguists and animal behaviorists were taken by surprise (Davis, 1978).

# Helpful Resources

[Purdue OWL](#)

[OSU Library](#)

[Cite Write](#)

# Still unsure? Visit the Writing Center!

440 Student Union



Make an appointment at: <http://osuwritingcenter.okstate.edu/>