Learning objectives

Understand how to avoid accidental and patchwork plagiarism.
Understand why you need in-text citations and a reference list.
Understand how to construct your in-text citations and your reference list.

4 things you need to know about plagiarism

1. Plagiarism is when you use a source without acknowledging it

There’s no excuse for plagiarism, not even accidental plagiarism. You can’t say, “But, but … “
I can’t remember where I copied that from.
I can’t find the source of my information now.
It’s only a picture, everyone is copying from Google Images.
It’s only words, it can’t hurt anyone.
It’s not like I’m cheating during a test.
I didn’t do it deliberately, I didn’t mean to plagiarize.
I didn’t know that’s considered cheating.
I didn’t mean to steal some one’s ideas.
I wasn’t aware that I was plagiarizing.
I didn’t know I could be expelled or suspended.

Patchwork paraphrasing, even if you acknowledge your source, is not acceptable paraphrasing. You cannot just:
   Replaced a few words with your own words.
   Rearranged some of the sentences.

To avoid this, keep your paraphrase to a short sentence written in your own words.

2. Your instructor insists on scholarly documentation for your research paper. What is scholarly documentation or referencing?

- Letting your readers know which part is your writing and which part is based on other people’s research.
- Acknowledging authorship
  Authorship is so important that it is the 1st part of your in-text citation and the 1st part in your Reference.
3. How do I know if I’ve plagiarized? When do I need to use in-text citation and compile a reference list?

My own opinion, idea or result of my case study/survey etc.

Common knowledge:
• Did I know this before I started my research?
• Is this information commonly known or widely available?
  Examples: Common accepted observations, opinions, facts, proverbs and quotations, urban legends, historical events in your subject area.
• If you find that this information undocumented (not referenced) in at least 5 reliable sources
• If you’re unsure, it is better to indicate where you found the information.

Statistics:
Example
More than 12 million Americans are estimated to need help from others because of chronic illnesses and disabilities that interfere with self-care (US Department of Health and Human Services [DHHS], 2007).

Theory or Research: Complex ideas that you learned from your research
Example
According to Hansen (2010), GHGs are the main causes of global warming.

Quotations: You used direct quotes in quotation marks. Even if you copied a short phrase, it is a direct quotation.
Example
Feldman (2004) noted that “the ‘national shame’ is that so many people are in prisons or jails” (para. 11).

Paraphrased: You summarized someone’s idea in your own words. Do not just rearrange or replace a few words from the original text.
4. Every in-text citation **must** have a reference. Every reference **must** have an in-text citation.

The link between your in-text citation and your reference list is crucial. The information in your in-text citation **must** match the first thing in your references.

If you used 5 sources in your research paper (in-text citations), you must have 5 references (unless your sources are emails, personal interviews, or other unrecoverable sources).

- **If I’ve indicated my sources in my in-text citation, do I still need a reference list at the end of my research paper?**

  You’re thinking …
  “I’ve acknowledge all the sources in the body of my research paper, so why would my instructor need the full details of these sources in my reference list?”

  “Besides, it’s a hassle to remember the different rules and punctuation for the different types of sources I used.”

  The complete information in your reference list provides additional information so that your instructors are able to:
  - Gauge the currency, reliability, authority, accuracy, and purpose (CRAAP) of your sources from the type of sources you used, eg:
    Scholarly journal vs newspaper;
    Non-academic book publisher vs university press
    Government websites vs personal websites.
  - Retrieve your sources quickly. The different punctuations and elements in your references indicate whether it is a book (use Library Catalog), journal article (use Library Databases), or websites (try Google).
  - Verify that you’ve used these sources accurately; perhaps you misquoted or misunderstood the source.

- **If I’ve listed all my sources in my reference list at the end of my research paper, do I need to indicate these sources in the body of my research paper?**

  If you don’t signal which part of your writing is taken from research sources, your instructor would think you’re trying to pass off other people’s research as your own!

Additional APA info: [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01)
APA Formatting (title page, running head, hanging indent): [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9pbUoNaSfyY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9pbUoNaSfyY)