

# How not to plagiarize: 8 tips



## Tip #1

Start your research early!

1. It may take time to find the best resources to support your arguments.
2. Your arguments change as you do research and learn more about your topic.
3. Understanding the material from a new field/subject area may take time to grasp and summarize.

## Tip #2

Know what the assignment is!

If you have ANY questions about the assignment requirements, ask your instructor immediately.

## Tip #3

Document your sources immediately!...

... as you are doing your research.

You'll always know where that perfect quotation came from.

## Tip #4

Use direct quotations sparingly.

- The majority of your paper should be in your own words.
- Quote if the exact words of the source matter.
- Paraphrase if it's just the idea expressed by the source that matters.

## Tip #5

Putting quotation marks around quotations isn't enough!

You still have to insert an in-text citation AND cite the source fully in your References list.

## Tip #6

Paraphrasing improperly is still plagiarism!

To paraphrase properly, you must:

- Really, truly use your own words and sentence structure: don't just change a couple of words;
- Cite the source with an in-text citation AND in your References list.

## Tip #7

Even if you found it online, you must still cite it!

- Info from the web is no different than using scholarly sources. You still have to cite the source.
- If it is publicly available on the web, it is not necessarily in the public domain.
- And if it is in the public domain, you still have to cite it.

## Tip #8

Citations & styles - know where to find help!

If you're unsure of if, when, or how to cite something, check a citation guide, ask your professor, or ask a librarian.

Check out:

- [Purdue OWL \(Online Writing Lab\)](#)
- [Library Research 101: Getting Started: How do I cite?](#)
- [Citations](#)

Information selected from:

Librarians at Vaughan Memorial Library. (n.d.). [You Quote It, You Note It](#) [version 2.20.09i.beta] [Tutorial].

Retrieved June 28, 2021, from

[https://library.acadiau.ca/files/sites/library/tutorials/twine/you\\_quote\\_it\\_you\\_note\\_it/index.html](https://library.acadiau.ca/files/sites/library/tutorials/twine/you_quote_it_you_note_it/index.html)

and

Ohio State University & Libraries. (2016). [Choosing & using sources: A guide to academic research.](#)

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  - Link: [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue\\_owl.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html)
- Library Research 101: Getting Started: How do I cite?
  - Link: <https://libguides.library.umaine.edu/libraryresearch101/citations>
- Citations
  - Link: <https://umalibguides.uma.edu/citationguide>

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