

Biology Writing Resources – What is Plagiarism?

- **Deliberate Plagiarism:**
Handing in a paper (as your own work) that you have bought, had a friend write, or copied from another student or the Internet is considered blatant plagiarism and will not be tolerated.
- **Forgetting to Use Quotation Marks**
Any word, phrase, sentence, or passage copied from a source must be placed in quotation marks. Leaving out the quotation marks constitutes plagiarism. Writers should weave quotes into their own writing and give proper citation to the original author.
- **Blatant Borrowing:**
Copying or downloading a phrase, a sentence, or a longer passage from a source and passing it off as your own by omitting quotation marks and a source citation constitutes plagiarism.
- **Sloppy Paraphrasing:**
Paraphrasing someone else's ideas without acknowledging a source with proper citation constitutes plagiarism. Paraphrasing involves putting a passage from published material into your own words. Paraphrased material is often shorter than the original passage, and if cited properly, can be a legitimate way to emphasize points in one's paper. It also helps writers control the temptation to quote too much. In addition, the mental process of successful paraphrasing helps one grasp the full meaning of the original material.
- **Other Forms of Plagiarism:**
Omitting a source citation from a paraphrase because of carelessness constitutes plagiarism, as does omitting a source citation for another's idea.

Material is probably “Common Knowledge” if:

- o You find the same information undocumented in at least five other sources.
- o You have good reason to believe it is information that your readers will already know.
- o Your material is known by individuals within your field of study or cultural group.

Interviewing

When you use information through an interview (or a conversation) with someone, these words and ideas must be cited. Interviews can be conducted in person, through e-mail, on the phone, and through post mail.