UNIVERSITY of NEW BRUNSWICK L I B R A R I E S

Avoiding Plagiarism Exercise

The paragraph below is a direct quote from the following article:

Sacco, V. F. (2000). News that counts: Newspaper images of crime and victimization statistics. *Criminologie*, *33*(1), 203-223.

"However, important news is not always bad news and it is striking how many articles over the period in question [1993-1994] spoke of crime rates in decline at both local and national levels. For example, out of 62 headlines which described a temporal trend in crime levels, only 29 % unambiguously described increases. In 55 % of the cases, rates were portrayed as stable or falling and in the remaining cases, the messages regarding the temporal trend were mixed or unclear. It would appear, contrary to many simple-minded interpretations of media treatment of crime, that news about falling crime rates was likely to receive extensive attention."

Max, Naomi, and Marshall are students who have used Sacco's article in their research papers. Decide whether each student's paragraph below is a case of plagiarism or an example of appropriate use of the article.

| MAX: However, bad news is not the only important news. In one Canadian study, less than one-third of the newspaper headlines examined described increasing crime rates, while just over 50% described stable or falling rates. Contrary to popular thought on the media's treatment of crime, falling crime rates do make the headlines |
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| Plagiarism or appropriate use? Why? |
| NAOMI: According to Sacco, significant news does not have to be bad news and it is noteworthy how many newspaper articles published in Canada between 1993 and 1994 mentioned declining crime rates at both national and local levels. For example, out of 62 headlines which described a temporal trend in crime levels, only 29 % unambiguously described increases. In 55 % of the cases, rates were portrayed as stable or falling and in the remaining cases, the messages regarding the temporal trend were mixed or unclear (2000). Contrary to popular opinion, news about decreasing crime rates did receive considerable attention |
| Plagiarism or appropriate use? Why? |
| MARSHALL: Sacco (2000) found that 55% of Canadian newspaper headlines between 1993 and 1994 described stable or falling crime rates, and concluded that "it would appear, contrary to many simple-minded interpretations of media treatment of crime, that news about falling crime rates was likely to receive extensive attention" (p. 216) |

Plagiarism or appropriate use? Why? _____