

Transcript: Plagiarism and How to Use Sources with Integrity

Let's review the importance of citations. Including citations in your work matters because citations

- show that you are informed about your topic,
- distinguish your work and ideas from the works of others,
- help the reader locate your sources, and
- help you use sources with integrity by giving credit where credit is due

The main two methods of citing or giving credit for someone else's work are quoting and paraphrasing.

Quoting means taking direct passages from other people's works and including them in your own work. The quoted text is enclosed within quotation marks and followed by either a bracketed in-text citation or a footnote, depending on the style of citation being used.

Quoting is a good way to support your arguments, however, as Pears and Shields (2013) argue, using too many direct quotes may "disrupt the flow of your writing and prevent you from demonstrating your understanding and analysis of the sources you have read" (p. 8). Also, keep in mind that in science disciplines quotations are less common than interpretation and evaluation. This is why paraphrasing is such an important alternative to quoting.

Paraphrasing is the act of taking another person's words and putting them into your own. Using your own words and your own phrasing are key to a good paraphrase.

As Soles (2008) explains: "To paraphrase a source effectively,

- make sure you understand the original completely.
- Read the original carefully several times;
- then try to write the paraphrase without consulting the original. In this way, you will be more likely to put the original into your own words and produce paraphrase that will blend in with you essay clearly and effectively.
- Then check the paraphrase against the original to make certain you have not altered the meaning of the original" (p. 46).

Is citing ever optional? There are instances of common knowledge, such as widely known facts, that do not require citation. For instance, the fact that the molecular structure of water is H₂O, Pierre Trudeau was a Prime Minister of Canada, World War II begun in 1939, the capital of France is Paris, are all common knowledge. However, as a student who is new to your discipline of study, you may not be aware of what counts as common knowledge in your field (Pears & Shields, 2013). This is why, when in doubt always cite!

Here are a few tips for using sources with integrity.

1. Keep track of your sources.

It is very time consuming to have to go back and retrieve a resource after you have used its information; keeping track of your sources from the beginning prevents this from becoming a problem. Citation management software programs like Zotero can help you keep track of your sources.

Zotero is a free software program that collects, manages, and helps you cite research sources. It is easy to use and works with your chosen web browser. See the UNB Libraries' Guide to Zotero <https://guides.lib.unb.ca/guide/206> for more details.

2. Only use sources and information that you fully understand.

You can't paraphrase effectively if you don't understand the content. Start your research at your own level and advance from there as you learn.

3. Take good notes, and write from your own notes.

Taking notes from your sources decreases the likelihood that you will plagiarize by further removing you from the original text.

4. Give yourself enough time to complete your work.

Many cases of accidental plagiarism occur as a result of trying to finish a paper in too little time. The pressure to complete the work stops some people from taking steps to keep their work clean.

5. When in doubt – cite.

When you have any doubts about whether you should cite something or not, cite it. If you are just beginning your studies, you may not be aware of what counts as common knowledge in your discipline (Pears & Shields, 2013).

Where do I get help with writing and formatting citations?

UNB Writing Centres located on both the Fredericton and Saint John campuses offer help with all aspects of academic writing and other essential skills, from note taking, time management, outlining a paper, formulating a strong thesis to formatting citations.

They also offer online guides to the major citation formats:

<http://www.unb.ca/fredericton/studentservices/academics/writing-centre/writing-answers.html>

Paraphrasing practice I

Pause the screencast. Read the original text and write your own paraphrase. Compare your paraphrase to the original text.

Next, read our paraphrase and note the necessary changes in wording and phrase structure from the original to the paraphrase.

Original Text

Gore, A. (2006). *An inconvenient truth: The planetary emergency of global warming and what we can do about it*. New York, N.Y.: Rodale.

The truth about global warming is especially inconvenient and unwelcome to some powerful people and companies making enormous sums of money from activities they know full well will have to change dramatically in order to ensure the planet's livability (Gore, 2006).

Our Paraphrase

Gore (2006) notes that the economic and industrial changes required to slow down climate change are particularly onerous for corporations whose concern with profit margins has to be weighed against the sustainability of life on Earth.

Paraphrasing practice II

Pause the screencast again. Read the next original text and write your own paraphrase. Compare your paraphrase to the original text

Next, read the example paraphrase and note the necessary changes in wording and phrase structure from the original to the paraphrase.

Original Text

Erickson, Norell, Rauhut, Zhou, Turner, & Inouye. (2009). *Archaeopteryx was not very bird-like Archaeopteryx lacked rapid bone growth, the hallmark of birds*. American Museum of Natural History. Retrieved March 15, 2017, from <http://www.amnh.org/our-research/science-news/2009/archaeopteryx-was-not-very-bird-like-archaeopteryx-lacked-rapid-bone-growth-the-hallmark-of-birds>

Archaeopteryx has long been considered the iconic first bird. But microscopic imaging of bone structure ... shows that this famously feathered fossil grew much slower than living birds and more like non-avian dinosaurs....This means rapid bone growth—long thought a prerequisite for flight—was not necessary for taking to the air (Erikson, et al., 2014).

Our Paraphrase

Recent research on a fossilized *Archaeopteryx* bone is changing the way scientists view the evolution of flight. Microscopic imaging has shown that the *Archaeopteryx*'s bone structure did not support rapid growth, like most modern birds' do. The *Archaeopteryx*'s observed growth patterns suggest that rapid bone growth is not required for flight (Erikson, et al., 2014).

Examples of citation styles by discipline

There are many different citation styles, and each discipline tends to 'prefer' one or two citation styles over the others.

- Business *American Psychological Association (APA)*
- Psychology *APA*
- Nursing *APA*
- History *Chicago*
- Engineering *APA / Geo-Technical (civil)*
- English *Modern Languages Association (MLA)*

Note: These are the *preferred* styles of the discipline, but your individual professors may want you to use something else. You should *always* check with your professor before formatting your citations.

Useful Links

UNB Libraries' Guide to Zotero: <https://guides.lib.unb.ca/guide/206>

UNB Libraries' Guide to Citation and Plagiarism: <https://lib.unb.ca/guides/view/index.php/613>

References

Erickson, Norell, Rauhut, Zhou, Turner, & Inouye. (2009). *Archaeopteryx was not very bird-like Archaeopteryx lacked rapid bone growth, the hallmark of birds*. American Museum of Natural History. Retrieved October 28, 2014, from <http://www.amnh.org/our-research/science-news/2009/archaeopteryx-was-not-very-bird-like-archaeopteryx-lacked-rapid-bone-growth-the-hallmark-of-birds>

Gore, A. (2006). *An inconvenient truth: The planetary emergency of global warming and what we can do about it*. New York, N.Y.: Rodale.

Pears, R., & Shields, G. J. (2013). *Cite them right: The essential referencing guide*. Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire, UK: Palgrave Macmillan.