

Plagiarism/Academic Misconduct Quiz

Could I be in trouble for academic misconduct/plagiarism? Write “yes” or “no” on each line.

1. ___ I got my friend to read my paper and circle all the typos.
2. ___ I got my friend to read my paper and put question marks next to parts s/he didn't understand.
3. ___ I got my friend to read my paper and write down other quotes that would help support my argument.
4. ___ After my friends and I had a big discussion and disagreement about the reading, I used some of our points in my paper.
5. ___ I read an article on the internet and used its main point as my thesis.
6. ___ I read an article on the internet, used some parts of it word-for-word in my paper, and listed the article on my works cited page.
7. ___ I read some information in a reference book, changed all the words and then put them into my own paper.
8. ___ I rewrote some sentences in my friend's paper so that it would sound better.
9. ___ My tutor showed me some different ways to rewrite sentences so that they sounded better.
10. ___ My tutor asked me lots of questions about the reading, and I used my answers in my essay.
11. ___ My tutor rewrote my thesis statement to change it from a summary to something that opens up an argument.
12. ___ My tutor said that my third paragraph would make more sense if it came before my second paragraph, so I moved it.
13. ___ I sold my paper to an internet student-essay bank.
14. ___ My teacher asked groups of students to read over each other's papers and write suggestions for changes and additions on them.
15. ___ My class discussed the reading and I used some of the points my teacher wrote on the board in my essay.

This quiz was originally generated by the Freshman English Office at the University of Connecticut; small adaptations were made by Rebecca Devers at CityTech and this quiz in its entirety was used with her permission.

6 Steps to Effective Paraphrasing (Purdue OWL, 2010)

1. Reread the original passage until you understand its full meaning.
2. Set the original aside, and write your paraphrase on a note card.
3. Jot down a few words below your paraphrase to remind you later how you envision using this material. At the top of the note card, write a key word or phrase to indicate the subject of your paraphrase.
4. Check your rendition with the original to make sure that your version accurately expresses all the essential information in a new form.
5. Use quotation marks to identify any unique term or phraseology you have borrowed exactly from the source.
6. Record the source (including the page) on your note card so that you can credit it easily if you decide to incorporate the material into your paper.

Paraphrase Exercise

(Example from Purdue Owl, 2010; see <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/619/02/> for more examples)

“Of the more than 1000 bicycling deaths each year, three-fourths are caused by head injuries. Half of those killed are school-age children. One study concluded that wearing a bike helmet can reduce the risk of head injury by 85 percent. In an accident, a bike helmet absorbs the shock and cushions the head.”

Excerpt from "Bike Helmets: Unused Lifesavers," Consumer Reports (May 1990): 348.

Common Knowledge and Paraphrasing

Common knowledge can be described as facts known by most educated people. To say that the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 is an example of common knowledge and need not be cited. What is not common knowledge **must** be documented. When taking notes, put "quotations" around sentences and phrases that you take directly from the text, and be sure to record the source. Is your statement paraphrased? That is, are you expressing someone else's ideas in your own words? If so, it too **must** be documented. A good paraphrase uses your own voice; a bad one borrows too heavily from the original.

	Example	Plagiarism? YES or NO
Original text from John Keegan's <i>The Battle for History</i>	The history of the Second World War has not yet been written... the passions it aroused still run too high, the wounds it inflicted still cut too deep, and the unresolved problems it left still bulk too large...to strike an objective balance. ²	
Acceptable quotation from original text	Military historian Sir John Keegan argues that, "The history of the Second World War has not yet been written . . . [because] the passions it aroused still run too high, the wounds it inflicted still cut too deep, and the unresolved problems it left still bulk too large . . .to strike an objective balance" (30).	NO
Acceptable paraphrase	Military historian Sir John Keegan maintains that no one has written the true history of the Second World War yet because the conflict was so complicated, aroused such passion, and left too many issues unsettled for anyone today to write a balanced account (30).	NO
Unacceptable paraphrase	The true history of the Second World War hasn't been written yet because the struggle was so complicated, the passions the war aroused still too high, and the wounds still too deep for historians to write an objective account.	YES
Acceptable. Student's original thought in his own voice	The history of World War Two is very complex, too complex for an accurate understanding at the present time.	NO

¹ Posner, Richard A. *Little Book of Plagiarism*

² Keegan, John. *The Battle for History: Re-fighting World War II*

Online resources for avoiding plagiarism:

- ▶ NYCCT statement on academic integrity:
http://www.citytech.cuny.edu/aboutus/docs/policies/CUNY_ACADEMIC_INTEGRITY_6-2011.pdf
- ▶ City Tech library: <http://library.citytech.cuny.edu/instruction/plagiarism/index.php>
- ▶ Student plagiarism tutorial (Baruch College):
<http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/tutorials/plagiarism/default.htm>

Online resources on paraphrase:

- ▶ City Tech library: <http://library.citytech.cuny.edu/instruction/plagiarism/index.php>
- ▶ Online Writing Lab at Purdue University:
<http://library.citytech.cuny.edu/instruction/plagiarism/index.php>
- ▶ <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/619/1/>

Online resources on documentation in MLA and APA styles:

- ▶ MLA format
 - ▶ Online Writing Lab at Purdue (MLA):
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>
 - ▶ City Tech library:
<http://library.citytech.cuny.edu/research/subjectGuides/wiki/index.php/MLA>
 - ▶ Official website of the MLA: <http://www.mla.org/style>
- ▶ APA format
 - ▶ Online Writing Lab at Purdue (APA):
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>
 - ▶ Official website of the APA: <http://www.apastyle.org/>