

# Rules of Citation

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# Avoiding Plagiarism

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- What does plagiarism mean?
  - to claim as your own the ideas or work of others
  - intentionally or unintentionally failing to give credit when it's due
- But when is credit due to other authors?



# Avoiding Plagiarism

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- When is credit due to other authors?
  - context matters: who the audience is and what the circumstances are under which the ideas or work of others is being presented alters the expectations of applying rules of citation
  - examples when there is no expectation to follow rules of citation:
    - ↳ if the material isn't being formally submitted as one's own work (e.g., you reference your classmate's words w/o proper citation in your peer-review of a rough draft)
    - ↳ if it's reasonable to assume from the circumstances that the work of others is not being presented as one's own (e.g., class lectures which are known to report the content of assigned readings)



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- When is credit due to other authors?
  - context matters: who the audience is and what the circumstances are under which the ideas or work of others is being presented alters the expectations of applying rules of citation
  - examples when there is no expectation to follow rules of citation:
    - ↳ if there is no reasonable expectation that credit be given (e.g., incorporating into your writing conversations with others, or common knowledge, or common intellectual property)
    - ↳ examples of common knowledge: President Trump won the 2016 election; NATO intervened against the Libyan government; anthropogenic climate change is creating environmental problems



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- When is credit due to other authors?
  - context matters: who the audience is and what the circumstances are under which the ideas or work of others is being presented alters the expectations of applying rules of citation
  - if ever you're unsure, just cite your source anyway



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- Avoiding plagiarism is not just about academic integrity.
  - proper citation enhances the strength of your arguments: our writing builds on the work of others and properly citing your sources gives your argumentation an air of legitimacy.
  - rules of citation motivate writers to better scrutinize and evaluate their evidence: with rules of citation, readers can hold writers accountable for incorporating reliable/credible sources.
  - proper citation demonstrates that the writer understands the broader literature s/he draws on and this lends credence to the writer's credibility.



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- As a general rule, for papers you write at CU, cite sources whenever:
  - what you're writing is not your own original idea—including<sup>†</sup>
    - ↳ direct quotes
    - ↳ facts not widely known
    - ↳ judgments, opinions, claims of others
    - ↳ images, statistics, visual aids or illustrations
    - ↳ collaborative work (commonly in a footnote or preface)
  - intentional dishonesty v. sloppiness/laziness v. honest mistakes
    - ↳ intentional disregard of rules = most egregious form of plagiarism
    - ↳ but honest mistakes or sloppiness do not excuse plagiarism

<sup>†</sup> This list is borrowed from Lunsford et al., *Everything's An Argument* (2013): 439



# Avoiding Plagiarism

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- How to properly cite your sources:
  - place “ ” around any direct quotes or borrowed words
  - provide in-text (parenthetical) citations, footnotes, or endnotes for all quotes, paraphrases, and summaries—with specific page numbers
    - ↳ explanations of quotes, paraphrases, summaries on next slide
    - ↳ in-text citations, footnotes, and endnotes must include the *specific* page number(s) from which you borrow the work from others
    - ↳ for our purposes, if no page number is available, add n.p. (for “no page”) in your in-text citation, footnote, or endnote



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- Tangent—Defining Quotes, Paraphrases, Summaries
  - quotes: borrowing the works of others word-for-word
    - ↳ borrowed material is identical to the original
  - paraphrases: putting the works of others into your own words
    - ↳ broader passages are condensed into briefer explanations
  - summaries: putting the “main ideas” of the (longer) works of others into your own words
    - ↳ summaries and paraphrases *both* require using your own words to describe the material you borrow from others
    - ↳ but summaries condense the work of others into significantly briefer explanations



# Avoiding Plagiarism

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- How to properly cite your sources continued:
  - place “ ” around any direct quotes or borrowed words
  - provide in-text (parenthetical) citations, footnotes, or endnotes for all quotes, paraphrases, and summaries—with specific page numbers
  - provide full citation of sources in works cited page (bibliography) for all quotes, paraphrases, and summaries
    - ↳ depends on documentation style: MLA, APA, Chicago
    - ↳ for your reference:  
<http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/how/citationstyle.htm>



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- One example of a citation style: MLA (Modern Language Association)
  - in-text citations instead of footnotes or endnotes
  - in-text citations with author: (Last Name, page #)
  - in-text citations with no author: ("Title of Work," page #)
  - full citation for books: Last, First Name. *Title of Work*. City: Publishing House, Year. Print.
  - full citation for scholarly articles: Last, First Name. "Title of Work." *Title of Journal*. Volume. Issue (Year): Page ##. Print.
  - full citation for newspaper articles: Last, First Name. "Title of Work." *Title of Newspaper*. Day Month Year: Section #. Print.



# Avoiding Plagiarism

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- Internet Sources—a brief note
  - blog text, photos, graphics, images must be cited like anything else
  - clearly copyrighted © requires permission to reproduce
  - unclear or absent copyright notices do not excuse the need to cite
  - once something is authored or produced—whether in a formal venue or not—it qualifies for copyright protection



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- Further Resources:

- Purdue Online Writing Lab:  
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/9/>
- <http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/how/citationstyle.htm>
- <http://honorcode.colorado.edu/student-information>
- <http://colorado.edu/policies/honor.html>
- Joseph Gibaldi, *MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing*, 2nd ed. (New York: Modern Language Association, 1999)