

Plagiarism and Paraphrasing

Faculty of Arts

Department of Philosophy and Applied Ethics

Professor Angelo Nicolaides



What constitutes Plagiarism?

The Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary refers to it as:

- Stealing and passing off the ideas or words of another person as your own.
- Using another person's creation without crediting the source.
- Committing literary theft.
- Present as new and original an idea or product which is derived from an existing source.
- Alternative expressions for plagiarism are: copying, infringement of copyright, piracy, theft, stealing, appropriation or adoption of another's work as your own creation.

WHAT IS PLAGIARISM?

Deliberate Plagiarism

- Rewriting from books or articles
- copying & pasting from web pages and online sources to create a **patchwork** writing
- buying, downloading, or borrowing a paper



Accidental Plagiarism

- not knowing when & how to cite
- not knowing how to paraphrase or summarize
- not knowing what “common knowledge” is
- recycling an old paper



Why does it likely happen?

- There is a lack of knowledge and skills: Students don't know how to cite and paraphrase.
- Lack of confidence or lack of preparation: Students take other's work because they did not take time to place the effort needed into learning the material, or they want to come across as being more impressive.
- Students don't think what they are doing is unethical.
- **REMEMBER:** Direct copy and paste of someone else's work without including any of your own writing and submitting another's work word-for-word as your own is plagiarism and it is unethical. Plagiarism can be intentional or unintentional. **Unintentional plagiarism** occurs when a student unintentionally cites a source inaccurately or improperly. **Intentional plagiarism**, is when a student selects not to cite a source or attempts to pass off someone else's ideas as their own.

Types of Plagiarism

- **The Clone** – you copy all of someone’s work and call it yours so there are no citations. Copying an exact passage (or entire work) and making small changes to the content to produce smooth changes and make it seem as though the content is not copied.
- **The Mashup** - part of the writing is original or correctly cited, but other parts are copied from one or multiple sources without using any quotation marks or citation. Properly citing but then relying excessively on the original work’s wording and structure.
- **Find & Replace** -Parts of the text are copied from the internet, and certain words and phrases have been changed to make the passages sound different. The text is still too close to the author’s original wording or the structure.

- **Hybrid plagiarism:** A mixture of perfectly cited sources and copying of passages with no citations.
- **The Recycler /self-plagiarism** - Submitting work you did for one class to a different one, or straight away recycling your old work for a different assignment and also failing to cite yourself in subsequent work that references the original. You could also be properly citing all sources in the work, nonetheless, leaving out any original thought, ideas, or points of view.
- **The 404 Error** - All copied text is cited, but some citations are inaccurate or leading to non-existent sources.
- You may say “it was an accident!” In education, it does not matter if plagiarism was deliberate or not. The penalties are usually the same.



Six common forms of plagiarism:

- **Verbatim plagiarism:** You copy someone else's work word for word.
- **Mosaic plagiarism:** You take pieces from one or more sources and fail to sufficiently paraphrase or directly quote information.
- **Inadequate paraphrase:** Your paraphrase too closely resembles the original content.
- **Uncited paraphrase:** You properly paraphrase someone else's content but don't give credit to the original source.
- **Uncited quotation:** You quote information in your writing but don't provide the original source for your readers.
- **Using another student's work:** You submit and take full credit for another student's ideas.

(Source: Harvard College Writing Program)

Other examples of plagiarism consist of:

- Making false citations to 'credit' ideas that are not your own.
- Quoting the words of someone without recognizing them.
- Copying or buying a research paper and handing it in as your own work.
- Using the exact words of somebody else in your own work without citing the source or acknowledging the author
- Paraphrasing or restructuring ideas while relying too heavily on the writer's original work.

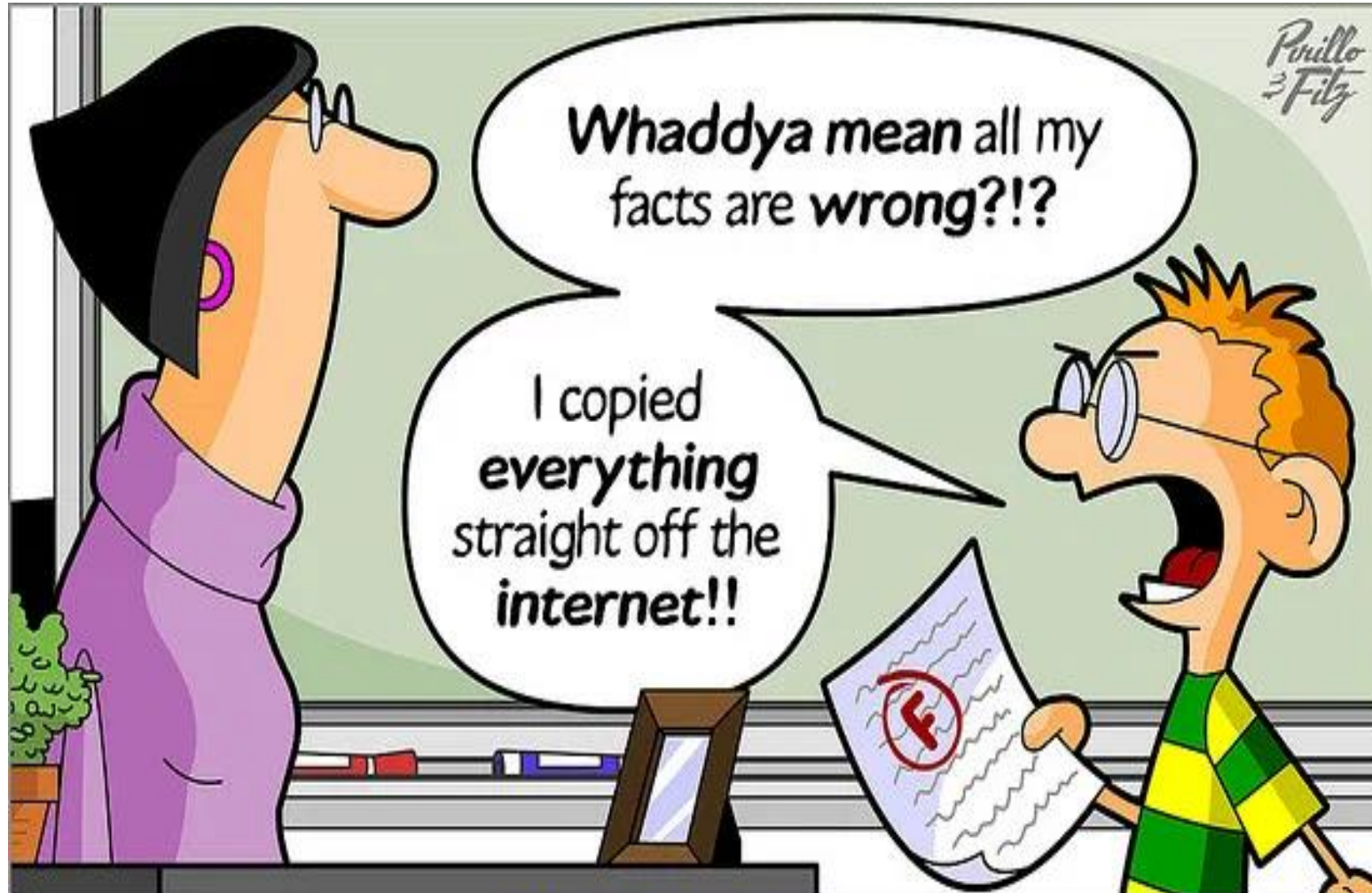


The bottom-line

- Plagiarism is using someone else's work or ideas without attributing right credit and presenting the work or ideas as your own.
- It is considered an academic violation, though it is not illegal in a criminal or civil sense it is unethical (in some cases it could be a criminal violation).
- When someone commits plagiarism, the act is against the author of the work and one is stealing their creative work.



Using another person's words, ideas, information, or creative work (such as academic work) is allowed, but only if you acknowledge the original authors and give credit to them. If you don't, you're plagiarizing their work.



Consequences of Plagiarism

- The consequences of plagiarism vary depending on the institution, but one could get you expelled or dropped from a course.
- In less severe instances, plagiarism—both intentional and unintentional—may result in a grade penalty and a zero mark, or even suspension from a course.
- Plagiarizing also taints your reputation and reduces your integrity.



Avoiding Plagiarism

- The key to avoiding plagiarism is learning how to incorporate research into your writing. According to the Plagiarism Information page on the Purdue Global Writing Center website, you can do this in the following ways:
- Quoting: If you don't want to alter a source, use quotation marks to enclose all verbatim phrases.
- Summarizing: If you find multiple relevant points in a lengthy text, simplify them into your own condensed synopsis.
- Paraphrasing: If you want to use a source's information, restate it in your own words through "new wording and phrasing in just as many words or slightly more words than the original."

Citing sources

- You should must always cite the sources of information you use in your academic work because it's an ethical requirement and it makes your work more credible, and it tells your readers where you found your information.
- The three most commonly used style guides in academia for citing sources are the APA Style, MLA Style, and Chicago Style. Cite your sources correctly.

What Requires Citation?

- Quotes: If you are quoting the actual words someone said, put the words in quotation marks and cite the source.
- Information and ideas: If you obtain ideas or information from somewhere else, cite it—even if you paraphrase the original content.
- Illustrations: If you use someone else's graphic, table, figure, or artwork, you must credit the source. These may also require permission and a copyright notice.

Why Citation Is Important

- The importance of citation goes beyond the avoidance of plagiarism. According to the Purdue Global Writing Center's Plagiarism Information page, citation:
 - Distinguishes new ideas from existing information
 - Reinforces arguments regarding a particular topic
 - Allows readers to find your sources and conduct additional information
 - Maintains ethical research and writing
 - Ensures attribution of ideas, avoiding plagiarism



What is paraphrasing?

The goal of a summary is to shorten the main ideas of a text you have read. BUT...

- The goal of a paraphrase is to put someone else's ideas in your own words.
- You use a summary to take notes for class or to help you remember what happened in a reading assignment. You must use a paraphrase when writing an essay assignment or paper.
- A summary should be as short as possible.
- A paraphrase does not shorten a text, it just places the ideas in a text into original words.

Summary Paraphrasing

- You need to remember what happened in a chapter you read.
- You need to identify the main ideas of an ENTIRE chapter and condense them into a short statement!
- You want to mention the idea the author wrote in A short paragraph in your essay.
- You need to re-word and re-structure the idea in a completely different way so you can use it in your essay without a direct quote.
- What Is Paraphrasing?
- Paraphrasing is using your own words to convey the meaning of an extract you have read. It shows your reader that you did your research and understand the content well. While students may understand that they need to cite sources, effective paraphrasing is a skill developed over time. You should thus practice this to prevent yourself falling into a 'plagiarism trap'

- The goal of paraphrasing is to explain the original work in your own wording and sentence structure. The best method this is to focus on the meaning of the text, and to force yourself to work together with its purpose and context.
- A good way to evaluate your understanding of material is to see if you can explain it to someone else. It's then easier to produce effective paraphrases—changing the language and structure of a passage then becomes more untroublesome.

Some tips to help you paraphrase a passage:

- Re-read the passage up until you fully comprehend its meaning.
- Write your own summary of the passage, without making a reference to the original.
- Check that your summary correctly captures the context of the original passage.
- Document the source information in a summary, on a piece of paper.
- Use direct quotes around necessary word for word information and say for example the author name and year followed by page numbers in brackets such as (Maluleke, 2021: 12-13).
- Remember that you need to cite your paraphrases, but the follow-up analysis and discussion points must be your own.

More tips to help you paraphrase a passage well:

- Gain a thorough understanding of the ideas in the source text. If you don't understand the author's ideas, it will be difficult to put them in your own words.
- Re-state the author's ideas using different words and sentence structure from the source text. Try to write the author's ideas down without looking at the source text - this will help you succeed. Don't look at the source text!
- Cite your paraphrased passages. Yes - you still have to cite a paraphrase just like a quote! I just read a book called *UBUNTU IDEAS FOR GLOBAL ETHICS (2021)* by PJ Morobi and KC Mpetla, The passage I want to paraphrase is on page 78. Example...



Making Original Text Paraphrases

- Students often overuse direct quotation when taking notes, and as a result they overuse quotations in the final research assignment.
- Only about 10 -15% of your final assignment should be directly quoted matter.
- Do your utmost to limit the amount of exact copying of source materials when taking notes. Students often quote excessively, and then fail to keep quoted material down to a necessary level.
- So, minimize the number of direct quotes you add to your notes.

Common Knowledge Exception

- You don't need to cite info that's considered to be common knowledge in the public domain—as long as you rewrite the well-known fact in your own words. According to the Purdue Global Writing Center's Basic Citation Guidelines page, information must have the following traits to be considered common knowledge:
 - The reader would already be aware of it.
 - It's a widely accepted fact; for example, there are 24 hours in a day.
 - It's accessible via common information sources.
 - It originates from folklore or a well-known story.
 - It's commonly acknowledged in your field and known by your audience.

Remember:

- What is Turnitin?
- A Software tool to check for plagiarism
- It is used electronically through Moodle
- Checks 'originality' – and then generates report for you to improve your work.
- References are usually left out from automated plagiarism checks, as they would obviously throw up a very high percent of similarity in the results.
- You should run a plagiarism check on your work for assignments or a manuscript, excluding references, and review it very sensibly if you get a score of 25-30% or more. The acceptable Turnitin percentage is anything below 25% in the similarity report. A Turnitin plagiarism score of 25% and below shows that your paper is original
- More significantly, make sure that entire sentences or chunks of text are not highlighted by the software, and that suitable references have been cited for all highlighted parts.

Why Reference at all?

- To develop good academic practice.
- To indicate which ideas are not your own.
- To demonstrate your wider reading/research on a topic or theme.
- To demonstrate good understanding of the topic.
- To let the reader know where the facts and ideas came from.
- To allow the lecturer to check the details.
- To escape the problem of Plagiarism!



What should be Referenced?

- Any idea, fact, concept, theory, opinion, snippet, etc...
- It does not have to be an exact quotation—any idea or piece of information has to be referenced•\
- It does not have to come from a book—any source **MUST** be referenced
- Journals, websites, CDs/DVDs, Youtube, Moodle, essays...etcetra
- You **MUST** show where everything has come from—even personal emails or conversations must be referenced.
- Always acknowledge the work of other people!

(Source:



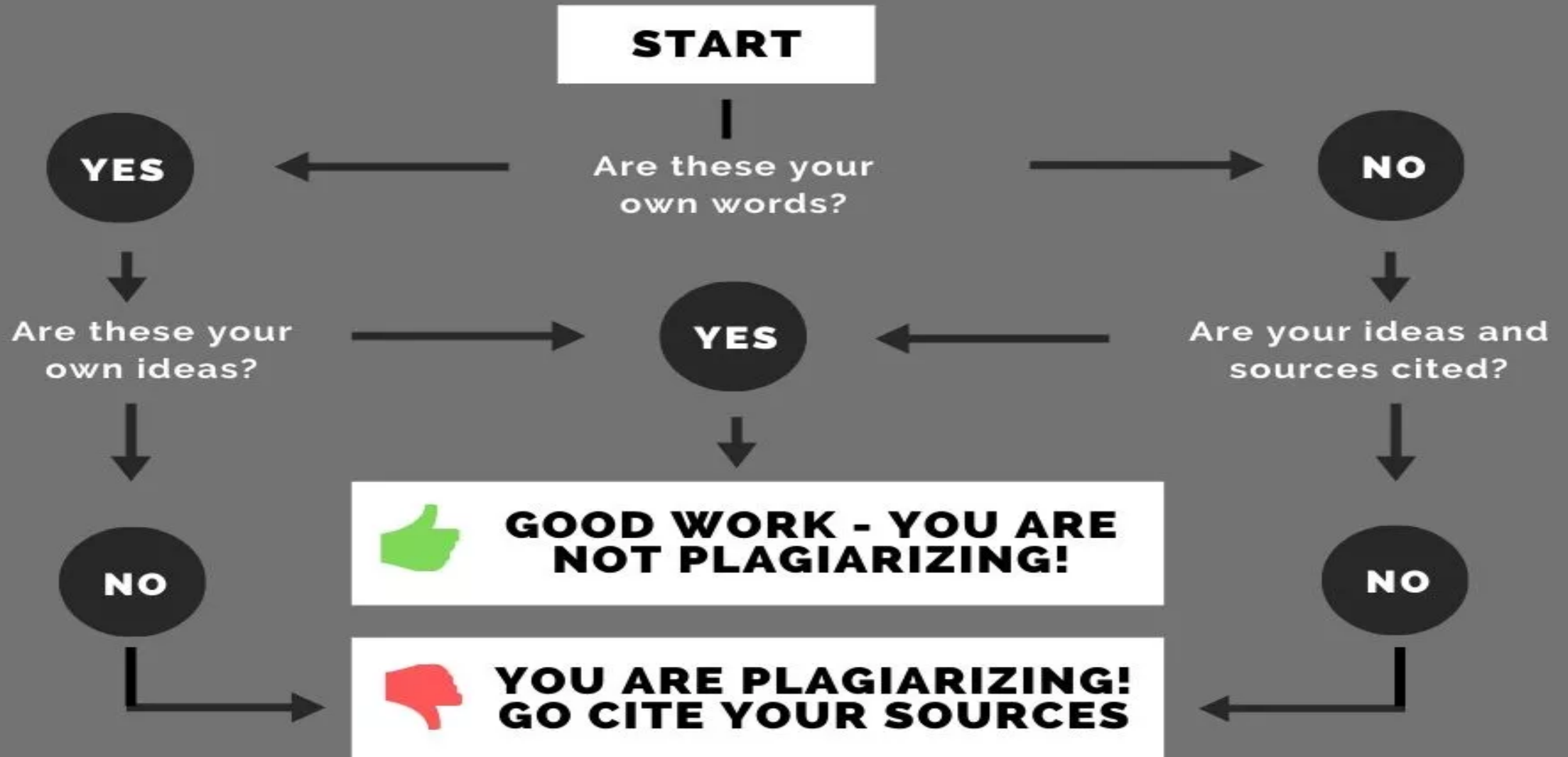
Definitions

- **Referencing:** the action of writing out an all-inclusive record of the resource/s from which you have found information.
- **Bibliography:** a list of all the resources you consult for an assignment regardless of whether or not you actually used them.



ARE YOU PLAGIARIZING?

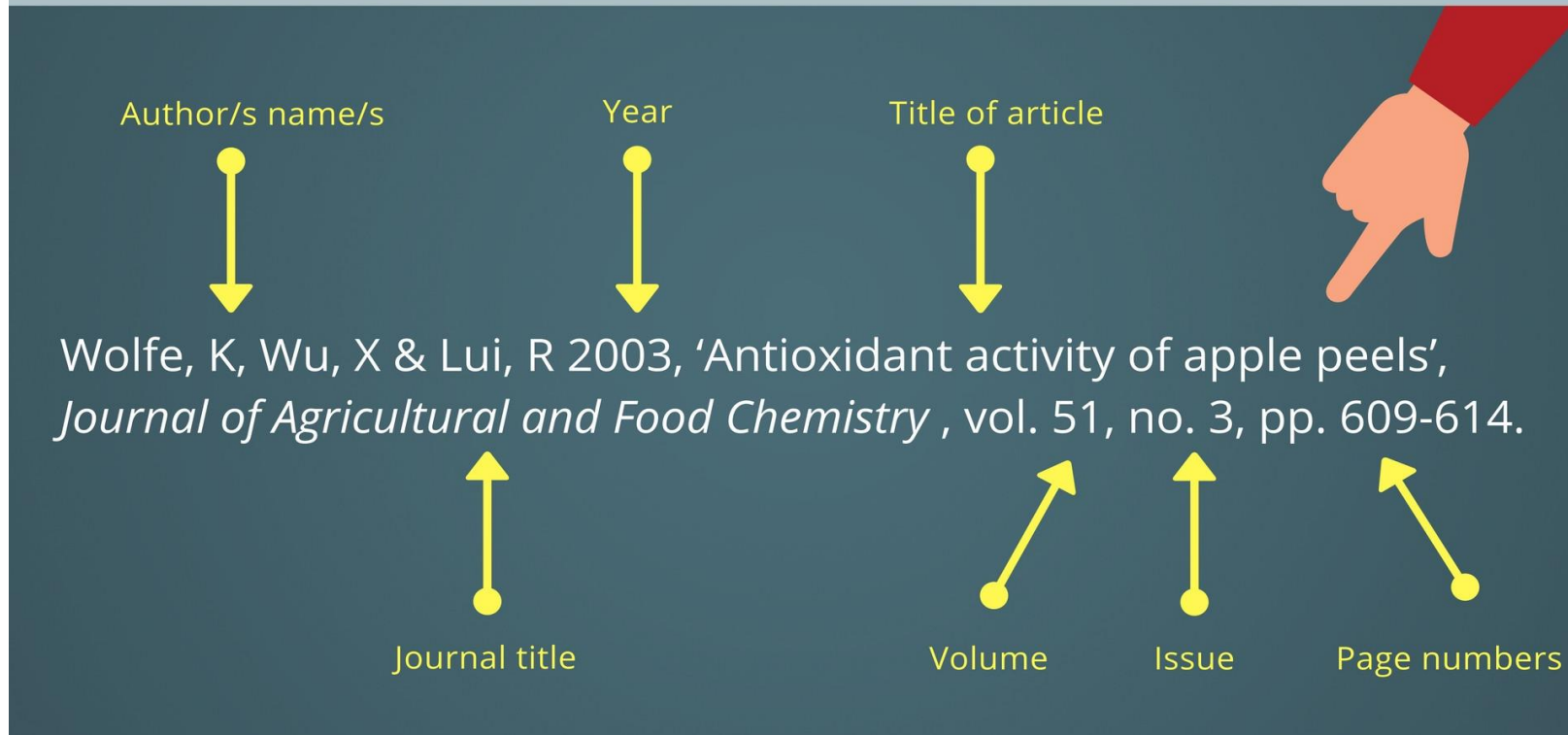
A QUICK GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING PLAGIARISM



Remember:

- Quoting a paragraph directly is done by placing it in block format with the source cited in-text and references is required.
- Paraphrasing the ideas in your own words, analysing the argument, avoiding the original language and re-organising the structure and then varying detail and using different examples is critically important. This shows your academic development and understanding!
- ALL sources must be stated correctly in a reference list or bibliography.

Anatomy of a Harvard reference



Note that the style may differ due to variants of Harvard etc., that are ALL acceptable...so the same source could be:

Wolfe, K., Wu, X. & Lui, R. (2003). Antioxidant activity of apple peels, *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*, 51 (3), 609-614.

THE KEY IS TO BE CONSISTENT IN STYLE IN YOU WORK

Example of referencing in APA Style

A "Reference list" must be placed at the end of your paper or presentation. This is where you list the full citations for all of the sources in used in your paper. Each source in the references list should correspond to an in-text citation.

As with in-text citations, the exact format and information you include in your citations depends on the style you are using. However, irrespective of the style, you will normally include certain standard basics such as author, year of publication, title, publisher, and a web link or web designation if the source is an electronic one.

In-Text Reference, APA:

- An eminent writer wrote that "The history of life on earth has been a history of interaction of living things and their surroundings" (Carson, 2002, p. 5). OR also acceptable is (Carson, 2002: 5).

Full Citation in Reference List, APA style:

- Carson R. (2002). *Silent Spring*. New York: First Mariner Books.

Some good plagiarism checkers

- Turnitin
- Authenticate
- Copyscape
- Grammarly's Plagiarism Checker
- Plagiarism Detector
- DupliChecker



References

Useful websites:

Plagiarism Resources (For Students & Teachers in 2021) available online at <https://www.websitehostingrating.com/plagiarism/>

Purdue Global university available at <https://www.purdueglobal.edu/blog/online-learning/plagiarism-and-paraphrasing/>

Editage insights. Available online at <https://www.editage.com/insights/should-references-be-included-in-a-plagiarism-check>

Plagiarism & References. Available online at www.kent.ac.uk/ai

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plagiarism>

<http://www.plagiarism.org/>“The Little Book of Plagiarism”

Books:

Hill, D. J. (2015). A beginners' guide to plagiarism. Wellington: Ako Aotearoa.

Neville, C. (2010). The Complete Guide to Referencing and Avoiding Plagiarism, McGraw-Hill.

Williams, K. & Davis, M. (2018). Referencing and Understanding Plagiarism, 2nd ed. Red Globe Press: United Kingdom.