

APSU Writing Center
Plagiarism & Citing Sources

Citing Sources

- **Citing** is giving credit to the original source of information, ideas, or words that you use in your own work.

Why Citing is Important

- **Citing your sources:**
 - Gives credit to the original authors.
 - Shows which ideas are yours and which belong to others.
 - Enhances your credibility as a writer or researcher.
 - Demonstrates your knowledge of the context and existing scholarship.

What Sources Must Be Cited?

- Ideas that are not your own.
- Researched information from books, articles, websites, or other sources.
- Statistics, graphics, images, or other media you didn't create.
- Direct quotes (someone's exact words).
- Paraphrased or summarized information from another source.
- Diagrams, charts, pictures, or illustrations you didn't make yourself.

What Sources Do Not Need to Be Cited?

- **Your own original material, such as:**
 - Observations
 - Thoughts or insights
 - Experimental results
 - Data you personally gathered
- **Common knowledge, such as:**
 - Widely known historical facts, dates, or events.
 - Basic scientific or cultural information that is generally accepted as true.

Citation Example

- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2023), "Regular physical activity can help improve brain health and reduce the risk of chronic disease."

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Plagiarism

- **Plagiarism** is the adoption or reproduction of another person's ideas, words, statements, images, or works without giving proper credit.

Types of Plagiarism

- **Deliberate Plagiarism**
 - Copying or downloading words or sentences and not citing the source.
 - Paraphrasing or summarizing someone's ideas without saying where they came from.
 - Turning in a paper that you didn't write yourself.
- **Accidental Plagiarism**
 - Mixing up what you read with your own thoughts because you didn't take notes carefully.
 - Forgetting to use quotation marks for someone else's exact words.
 - Leaving out a citation when you paraphrase or summarize.
 - Not citing an idea because you didn't realize it needed credit.
- **Self-Plagiarism**
 - Reusing your own work (like a paper from another class) and submitting it again without permission from your professor to reuse it.

How to Avoid Plagiarism

- Take clear notes while researching.
- Use quotation marks for exact words.
- Cite your sources whenever you use someone else's ideas or information.
- When in doubt, cite!

Incorrect Citation

- **Example:** Climate change is causing sea levels to rise and weather patterns to become more extreme.
 - Copied directly from a source with no credit to the author.

Correct Citation

- **Example:** According to NASA (2023), "Climate change is causing sea levels to rise and weather patterns to become more extreme."



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References

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