

Plagiarism and the Internet

What is plagiarism?

Plagiarism is the improper borrowing of another person's words, ideas, or methods. If you use another person's material, you must acknowledge your source. When you cite a source properly, you have given credit where it is due, and you have also given your readers a way to locate the original material on their own.

What's wrong with plagiarism?

Plagiarism is a direct violation of academic code: whether you borrow a single idea, a sentence, or an entire essay, if you pass someone else's work off as your own, you risk expulsion. Also, plagiarism undermines the work you are doing as a student. You are not expected to have ideas that consistently rival those of experts and professional scholars, but you are expected to know how to find expert opinions on a given subject and how to properly cite those opinions.

What does this have to do with the Internet?

With the accessibility of the Internet comes new temptations to plagiarize. Web sites have sprung up offering for sale completed essays on any topic. The catch? Those sites are just as accessible to your instructor as they are to you. Most writing teachers are aware of what can be bought and can easily spot a "recycled" essay. Don't risk it. And don't cheat yourself out of your education.

Documentation

Citing your sources properly requires following the rules: a number of organizations, such as the Modern Languages Association, the American Psychological Association, and the Council of Biological Sciences, have developed documentation guidelines for use in their disciplines. Use the documentation guidelines your instructor recommends.

Most English classes use the MLA style of formatting citations. Barebones guidelines for the MLA documentation style can be found on the Web at:

<http://www.mla.org/main_stl-nf.html> MLA Style

If you are citing electronic sources such as web sites and CD-ROMs (and you have already checked with your instructor to be sure they are appropriate sources), you can find more help with formatting by visiting sites listed on the following page:

<http://www.mhhe.com/socscience/english/compde/r1sub1.html#citation> **M.O.R.E. (McGraw-Hill Online Resources for English) Documentation conventions for online sources**

< <http://www.mhhe.com/socscience/english/compde/rlger.html> > *The McGraw-Hill Guide to Electronic Research and Documentation* by Diana RobertsWienbroer

Bibliography Formats

Book with one author	MLA	Harris, Phyllis. <u>From the Soul: Stories of Great Black Parents and the Lives They Gave Us</u> . New York: Berkley Publishing Group, 2003.
	APA	Harris, P. (2003). <i>From the soul: Stories of great black parents and the lives they gave us</i> . New York: Berkley Publishing Group.
Book with two or three authors	MLA	McMillon, Bill, Doug Cutchins, and Anne Geissinger. <u>Volunteer Vacations: Short-Term Adventures That Will Benefit You and Others</u> . 8 th ed. Chicago: Chicago Review Press, 2003.
	APA	McMillon, B., Cutchins, D., & Geissinger, A. (2003). <i>Volunteer vacations: Short-term adventures that will benefit you and others</i> (8 th ed.). Chicago: Chicago Review Press.
Book with more than three authors	MLA	Brand-Miller, Jennie, et al. <u>The New Glucose Revolution</u> . New York: Marlowe & Company, 2003.
	APA	Brand-Miller, J., Wolever, T., Colagiuri, S., & Foster-Powell, K. (2003). <i>The new glucose revolution</i> . New York: Marlowe & Company.
Magazine article	MLA	Bearak, Barry. "Why People Still Starve." <u>The New York Times Magazine</u> 13 July 2003: 32-37.
	APA	Bearak, B. (2003, July 13). Why people still starve. <i>The New York Times Magazine</i> , 32-37.
Scholarly journal article	MLA	Carliner, Saul. "Taking Cues from the Culture." <u>Journal of Business & Technical Communication</u> 14 (2000): 264-289.
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Article with no author listed	MLA	"Wireless Worries." <u>Time</u> 31 July 2000: 68.
	APA	Wireless worries. (2000, July 31). <i>Time</i> , 68.
Article reproduced in CD-ROM database	MLA	Galeano, Eduardo. "Miracles and Anthems: The Alchemy of Soccer." <u>Harper's Magazine</u> Jan. 2003 (63-67 in original publication). Expanded Academic CD-ROM database. Retrieved 20 Jan. 2004.
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Article reproduced on Internet	MLA	Fritsch, Jane. "Evidence of Innocence Can Come Too Late for Freedom." <u>The New York Times</u> 30 July 2000 (WK-3 in original publication). Retrieved 4 Feb. 2001 < http://www.nytimes.com >.
	APA	Fritsch, J. (2000, July 30). Evidence of innocence can come too late for freedom. <i>The New York Times</i> (WK-3 in original publication). Retrieved February 4, 2001, from http://www.nytimes.com
Web document with author listed	MLA	Clark, Jessica. "Access to Usable Water: A Growing Global Concern." <u>Britannica</u> . 15 June 2001. Retrieved 14 Feb. 2003 < http://www.britannica.com >.
	APA	Clark, J. (2001). Access to usable water: a growing global concern. <i>Britannica</i> . Retrieved February 14, 2003, from http://www.britannica.com
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no author listed		< http://www.womenconnect.com >.
	APA	Workplace wellness. (2001). <i>Women Connect</i> . Retrieved January 14, 2003, from http://www.womenconnect.com
Discussion forum posting	MLA	Westerfield, Mike. "Request for Smallpox Information." Online posting. 1 Jan. 2003. <sci.med.immunology>. Retrieved 13 Feb. 2003 on Google Groups < http://groups.google.com >.
	APA	Westerfield, M. (2003, January 1). Request for smallpox information. Message posted to sci.med.immunology. Retrieved Feb. 13, 2003, from http://groups.google.com
E-mail	MLA	Gomez, Maria, curator, Brookridge Museum of Art. "Pre-Columbian Art." E-mail to Natalie Pellegrino. 14 Aug. 2003.
	APA	Gomez, M., curator, Brookridge Museum of Art. (2003, August 14). Pre-Columbian art. E-mail to Natalie Pellegrino.
Interview	MLA	Ahmed, Helen, M.D., pediatrician. Personal interview. 3 Aug. 2003.
	APA	Ahmed, H., M.D., pediatrician. (2003, August 3). Personal interview.
TV program	MLA	Diaz, Arnold, narrator. "Safe Shopping Online." <i>20/20</i> . ABC News. 2 Aug. 2000.
	APA	Diaz, A., narrator. (2000, August 2). Safe shopping online. <i>20/20</i> . ABC News.
DVD or Videocassette	MLA	National Geographic. <i>Into the Great Pyramid</i> . DVD. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Video, 2003.
	APA	National Geographic (2003). <i>Into the great pyramid</i> [DVD]. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Video.

For situations not covered here, see MLA and APA style guides on the Internet: Go to this book's website (www.mhhe.com/gregory7), click on Student Edition and then Weblinks, and explore links for this page.