

## Examples of Plagiarism

The paragraphs below provide examples of three commonly used forms of plagiarism. Read through each paragraph and the explanations of the plagiarism examples. Then rewrite the original paragraph in your own words without plagiarizing the paragraph.

### Original Paragraph

Author: Dawn McBride, 2006.

A patient known only as H.M. suffers from a particular form of amnesia. At the age of 27, H.M. had surgery to decrease the symptoms of his epilepsy. During the surgery, an area near the center of his brain called the hippocampus was damaged. The hippocampus aids in the storage of new memories. When H.M. awoke from the surgery, he could remember facts about himself and episodes from his life before the surgery, but he could not remember new people he met or new facts about the world or himself. In other words, H.M. has anterograde amnesia; since his surgery he has not been able to create new memories that last longer than a few minutes. His condition keeps him from living a normal life.

### Verbatim Plagiarism

Amnesia is a medical condition that has been found to impair an individual's ability to remember information. There is more than one type of amnesia that can affect an individual. A patient known only as H.M. suffers from a particular form of amnesia. At the age of 27, H.M. had surgery to decrease the symptoms of his epilepsy. When the surgery was being performed, an area near the center of his brain called the hippocampus was damaged. The hippocampus aids in the storage of new memories. Upon awakening from the surgery, he could remember facts about himself and episodes from his life before the surgery, but he could not remember new people he met or new facts about the world or himself. In other words, H.M. has anterograde amnesia; since his surgery he has not been able to create new memories that last longer than a few minutes. This unfortunate affliction limits the daily activities that H.M. is capable of engaging in.

### Comments

The words highlighted in **bold** were written exactly as they appeared in the original passage. This is considered plagiarism as the author of the rewritten passage has made no attempts to use quotation marks to indicate that the words were not his or her own. In addition, the author provides no citation from which this information was taken. Although the entire passage has not been lifted from the original work, the author is still required to provide quotation marks and a citation.

### Lifting Selected Passages

Amnesia is a medical condition that has been found to impair an individual's ability to remember information. There is more than one type of amnesia that can affect an individual. A *patient known only as H.M.* was affected by *a particular form of amnesia*. The treatment that H.M. underwent *to decrease the symptoms of his epilepsy* involved extensive surgical procedures wherein a section of his brain was removed to reduce the erratic electrical brain activity that was causing the seizures. During the procedure, *an area near the center of his brain* was damaged beyond repair. As a result, H.M. was no longer able to form new memories. Although H.M. could not form new memories, he could still *remember facts about himself and episodes from his life before the surgery*. This type of amnesia is called anterograde amnesia. This condition has precluded H.M. *from living a normal life*.

#### Comments

The paragraph above displays the author's attempt to paraphrase the original passage while only lifting select passages from the original. This is still considered plagiarism as the author used *five or more words in a row* from the original passage in several places without providing a citation or quotation marks. This type of plagiarism can be avoided by using quotation marks around the lifted passages and providing citations or by paraphrasing the lifted passages using his or her own words and providing a citation of the source.

### Paraphrasing the Structure of the Paragraph Without Citations

An individual who was known in the medical community as H.M. was diagnosed with a specific type of amnesia. In order to reduce the number of seizures H.M. experienced as a result of his epilepsy, he underwent brain surgery when he was 27. When surgeons removed the afflicted areas of the brain, damage was caused to an area of the brain known as the hippocampus. Research has revealed that the primary function of the hippocampus is the formation of new memories. Upon awakening, H.M. found himself unable to store any new information regarding specific events and personal experiences. This type of amnesia is known as anterograde amnesia. H.M.'s memories that existed before the surgery remain preserved, whereas information encoded after the surgery is highly transient. This condition imposed severe limitations on the type and amount of daily activities that H.M. could complete without the assistance of others.

#### Comments

In this paragraph, the author did not lift any passages from the original paragraph. However, this paragraph has the same structure as the original and there are no citations. This is the most common type of plagiarism found. This type of plagiarism can be prevented by simply citing the source. For example, this paragraph could begin with a statement of who the original author was along with an indication that the following paragraph would be a restatement of the original author's words. In addition, the citation could come at the end of the paragraph if the author chooses.