

IU plagiarism test guide

<https://plagiarism.iu.edu/>

Take your time when you are looking through the tutorials and when you are taking the test. Once you begin, you have 40 minutes to complete the test, and so there's no need to rush.

If you've already tried taking the test, then you know what it's going to be like. Go back through the 'Learn through instruction' pages and find the information that you need. Yes, the videos are a little cheesy or dull, but they're short, and they provide the information you need. For instance, [this video](#) explains exactly what is needed in a passage that paraphrases words and ideas from another author.

So, read the instructions, watch the videos, and write down what you'll need to know for the test (and for any papers that you'll write in the future).

Here are some questions to answer before you take the test. (Look through the 'Learn through instruction' pages and find the answers to these questions before you begin the test.)

- (a) What are the two kinds of plagiarism? When does the first type of plagiarism occur? When does the second type occur?
- (b) How many copied words count as word-for-word plagiarism?
- (c) What has to be included in the citation in the paragraph (for both kinds of plagiarism)?
- (d) Is a citation in the paragraph and at the end (under "References") always needed?
- (e) When ideas are paraphrased from somewhere else (some book or article), are quotation marks needed?
- (f) In a citation in the passage, do the author's name, the year, and the page number (if all three are needed) have to be together?

Taking the test

When you are taking the test, go slowly. First look at the passage on the right (the “student version”) and see (1) if there’s a citation in the passage, (2) if quotation marks are used anywhere in the passage, and (3) if there’s a citation at the very bottom (under “References”). That’s not everything that you need to know, but it’s a good starting point. Next, look at what’s in bold in the passage on the left (the “original source material”). Then, carefully and slowly compare the two passages (with special attention to what’s in bold on the left and what’s the same or similar in the passage on the right). Don’t rush.

Here are a few more things to think about while you are taking the test.

Sometimes the student version (the passage on the right) contains no quotation marks and has no citations. In that case, compare the two passages (the original source material and the student version) and see if there is word-for-word copying.

If there’s not word-for-word copying, is what’s in bold (on the left) paraphrased in the student version? If there is paraphrasing, does there have to be a citation in the passage?

Sometimes the student version (the passage on the right) has a citation in the paragraph with the author’s name. Is a date (i.e., year) included? Is a date always needed?

Are any of the words in the student version copied from the original source material? How many words in a row count as word-for-word plagiarism?

If the ideas from the original source material are paraphrased (not copied) in the student version, does a page number have to be given?