

AVOIDING PLAGIARISM

1. To plagiarize means to pass another's work as your own. Avoiding plagiarism becomes especially important when you write a research paper or essay that calls for incorporating another's work (i.e. ideas) into your own writing. Therefore, you must be sure to give the original author full credit.

You may incorporate another's work into your paper in three ways: paraphrase, short quotations, and long quotations. Paraphrasing means to summarize material in your own words; that is, you do not use any of the words used in the original material. Quoting, whether short or long, means to use the exact words from the original material. In addition, the exact wording is set off by quotation marks.

Both paraphrased and quoted material need to be acknowledged within essay.

2. The examples provided below show the difference between valid research writing and plagiarism. First is an example of original reference materials, which is followed by three student versions---only one of which would not be called plagiarism:

Original Material

Wuthering Heights is the most remarkable novel in English. It is perfect and perfect in the rarest way. It is the complete bodying forth of an intensely individual apprehension of the nature of man and life. That is to say, the content is strange enough, indeed baffling enough, while the artistic expression of it is flawless.

Walter Allen, *The English Novel*. New York: E.P. Dutton and Co., Inc., 1954.

Student Version A:

The most remarkable novel in English is *Wuthering Heights*. It brings forth an individual apprehension of the nature of man and life; therefore it is perfect in the rarest way. The artistic expression is flawless, but the content is strange, indeed baffling.

Student Version B:

Wuthering Heights is a great English novel. It is perfect in the rarest way: it provides an individual apprehension of man's nature. The artistic expression is flawless, although the content is strange and baffling (*The English Novel* 223).

Both student version **A** and **B** are plagiarized since the student has used many words from the original text without any reference to their original source. Even though

version B is acknowledged, the student has still plagiarized since he has used many words from the original source but has not set them off with quotation marks. Thus he has punctuated a direct quote as if it were his own paraphrase of the material.

Student Version C:

One critic has mixed feelings about *Wuthering Heights*. On one hand he deems it perfect, yet admits that are “strange,” even “baffling” (*The English Novel* 223). The book’s perfection, he feels, lies in its ability to present an “intensely individual apprehension of the nature of man and life” (Allen 223).

Version C is not plagiarized. The student is careful to show that it is Allen’s ideas that are being presented, and not the student’s own.