

What is referencing?

Referencing is a way of acknowledging the sources you have used to support your arguments in an essay or assignment. This means that you need to include detailed information on all sources consulted, both within your text (**in-text citations**) and at the end of your work (**References**). Importantly, referencing will avoid plagiarism.

What is plagiarism?

Plagiarism involves deliberately or unintentionally presenting someone else's ideas as your own. It is an example of cheating. It doesn't just apply to direct quotations but summarised and paraphrased arguments too. Plagiarism is treated very seriously and usually results in disciplinary action.

Why reference?

- helps you to avoid plagiarism by making it clear which ideas are your own and which are someone else's
- shows your understanding of the topic
- gives supporting evidence for your ideas, arguments and opinions
- allows others to identify and locate the sources you have used

When to reference?

Whenever you use an idea from someone else's work, for example from a journal article, textbook or website, you should cite the original author to make it clear where that idea came from. This is the case regardless of whether you have paraphrased, summarised or directly quoted their work. This is a key part of good practice in academic writing.