WRITING A RESEARCH PAPER?

Here are some tips to help you avoid plagiarizing someone else’s work.

Avoid These

Unreliable Sites

Unreliable sites¹ often contain material taken from other sources without citation. If you use them, you might unintentionally be plagiarizing, so it is best to avoid these sites:

1. Wikipedia
2. Answers.com
3. Yahoo!Answers
4. Slideshare
5. Scribd

Avoid These

Poor Work Habits

Poor work habits can lead to a less than stellar research paper—and plagiarism. To avoid plagiarism caused by inattention, avoid these work habits²:

1. Not keeping detailed notes on each piece of research with sources listed
2. Not indicating in your notes whether you have paraphrased or summarized a source’s words
3. Not citing a source when you are not sure if you have paraphrased or summarized

Credit These

Source Types

To avoid presenting other people’s ideas as your own, you must give credit to, or cite, the following sources³:

1. Any part of a text you directly quote in your paper
2. Any part of a text you paraphrase
3. Any part of a text you summarize
4. Any person’s original thoughts, opinions or ideas
5. Any facts, statistics, graphs or information that is not “common knowledge”

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¹ “A Comparison of Internet Sources for Secondary and Higher Education Students,” Turnitin.com
² plagiarism.org
³ EBSCO Student Success Tool