

**AVOIDING PLAGIARISM
IN ACADEMIC WRITING:
A BRIEF INTRO TO USING & DOCUMENTING SOURCES**

Brea Barthel, M.S.

Folsom 154-C / 518.276.2198

**For Orientation
Lally School of Management**

“AVOIDING PLAGIARISM”

- ⦿ Directly related to academic integrity
- ⦿ An important aspect of *intellectual* integrity
- ⦿ Plagiarism = stealing [words, data, ideas]
- ⦿ Avoiding it = identifying sources and quotes; taking responsibility for your work

TEN BASIC PRINCIPLES

1. Knowledge is built on the work of others.
2. Ideas, words, images, statistics, other work are considered “intellectual property,” so the creator/source must be acknowledged.
3. Academia & business require more careful tracking of sources.
4. Standards exist for identifying a source.
5. A source must be identified wherever/whenever info is used.

Continued...

THE OTHER BASIC PRINCIPLES

6. Sufficient information must be given for each source so someone can find it.
7. Direct quotes must be clearly identified to distinguish them from your own words/ideas.
8. You will be tempted to copy entire sections. Don't do it!
9. "Paraphrasing" - restating ideas in your own words -- must create a new structure, not just tweak small details.
10. Submitting your own previous work for a later project may be considered "self-plagiarism."

#1: KNOWLEDGE IS BASED ON THE WORK OF OTHERS

“If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.” Isaac Newton

From *The Correspondence of Isaac Newton*
(www.goodreads.com and elsewhere, but basic well known info does not need a citation)

WHAT TYPES OF SOURCES?

Type	Considerations
Wikis, dictionaries	Do better than that!
Websites, blogs	Analyze the source
Interviews	Insights, stories, “human interest”
Books	Time lag to publication
Magazines, newspapers	Current; cultural info
Statistics, surveys	Lies, damn lies... look closely
Professional or trade journals	Specific to a field; technical background; issues & terminology
Scholarly journals	“Serious” work; scholars talking to scholars; shorter time lag than books

#2: INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Western culture, especially academia, considers ideas, words, images, and other works as the “property” of their creator, so each source must be fully identified.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN PEOPLE “BORROW” INFORMATION?

Some recent cases of plagiarism:

- ◉ 1998: Mike Barnicle resigns from the *Boston Globe*
- ◉ 2002: Doris Kearns Goodwin loses position on Pulitzer Prize board, commentator roles on TV programs, and more
- ◉ 2003: Jayson Blair resigns from *The New York Times*
- ◉ 2012: Jonah Lehrer leaves *The New Yorker*

“List of plagiarism incidents.” (n.d.). Wikipedia.

THE PROBLEM IS NOT JUST IN JOURNALISM!

2006: Raytheon stopped distributing a management book *not* authored by its CEO, William H. Swanson.

“List of plagiarism incidents.” (n.d.) Wikipedia.

THE BIGGER ISSUE: PERSONAL REPUTATION

If you are caught plagiarizing, you lose:

- ◉ Course grades
- ◉ Respect of Lally faculty
- ◉ Trust of colleagues
- ◉ Professional standing, job, and possibly career

#3: ACADEMIA REQUIRES EVEN MORE CAREFUL TRACKING

Casual conversation:

I saw an article yesterday about labor conditions in Bangladesh.

General (“popular”) writing:

The *New York Times* reported changes in Bangladesh’s labor standards following the devastating industrial fire.

Academic or business report:

International protest forced Bangladesh to revise laws regarding building fire-safety standards and inspections (Greenhouse & Yardley, 2013, July 17).

WHY A HIGHER STANDARD?

- ⦿ Acknowledges intellectual property
- ⦿ Shows you've done your research
- ⦿ Makes you more aware of sources
- ⦿ Helps audience assess your sources and logic
- ⦿ Helps audience check a source if questions

#4: STANDARDS EXIST FOR IDENTIFYING A SOURCE

Style guides explain how to format details for sources.

- ◉ Most common in business: “APA”
(American Psychological Association)
- ◉ Others: MLA (Modern Language Association), *Chicago Manual of Style*; field-specific ones
- ◉ Faculty (also journals or companies) may request a specific format or have an “in-house” style.
- ◉ Check guides online for help.

(SIDENOTE ON STYLE GUIDES)

Citations are just one piece. Guides also address topics such as:

- ⦿ Overall format (page layout)
- ⦿ Design of tables & other graphics
- ⦿ Rules for capitalization & punctuation
- ⦿ Common abbreviations
- ⦿ And lots more!

#5: IDENTIFY A SOURCE WHEREVER INFO IS USED.

Use a brief in-text citation WHENEVER and WHEREVER you use another's

- ⦿ Words (direct quote; exactly what they said, or very close to what they said)
- ⦿ Information (even if “paraphrased” -- stated in your own words)
- ⦿ Idea, model, paradigm, concept
- ⦿ Image (yes, even if pulled from website)

But avoid over-identification!

TWO APA APPROACHES

- ⦿ Mention author, date, and (for a quote or detailed info) page number
 - Can be in parenthetical form. Example:

Four basic design principles are proximity, alignment, repetition, and contrast (Williams, 2008)
 - Can be within the sentence. Example:

Williams (2008) outlines four basic design principles: proximity, alignment, repetition, and contrast.

OR

- ⦿ Use superscript (raised) and/or bracketed number to refer to a footnote (bottom of page) or endnote (end of paper)

EXAMPLE:

Simons & Sanderson (2011, p. 372):

In other ways as well, the Japanese patent system has moved closer to the US patent system over time.^{[4],[5],[6]}

(SIDENOTE RE ORAL REPORTS)

Same idea!

- ⦿ Work author's name, organization, or other important identification into your sentence.
- ⦿ Acknowledge sources for text or artwork on slide where you use the material
- ⦿ Give full details of sources in final slide(s) (the details may not be shown, but they'll be available for reference if needed)

#6: GIVE SUFFICIENT INFO THAT SOMEONE CAN FIND THE SOURCE

Style guides show different ways of formatting details for various types of sources.

- ⦿ Each source gets its own entry.
- ⦿ The first item in each entry matches however sources are cited in the text (usually author's last name or a number).
- ⦿ All entries get compiled into a single list, in alphabetical order or numerical order.

MAIN ITEMS FOR PRINTED WORK

- ◉ Author name(s), with last name first
- ◉ Title of publication (~what you'd look for in a library)
- ◉ Date of publication
- ◉ Publisher
- ◉ If an article or part of a larger work, the specific title of the item
- ◉ If a periodical (journal, magazine), volume number, issue number (if any), and page number(s)

WHAT ABOUT WEBSITES?

The same big idea: enough detail that someone can find the exact source you used!

The main items for a website:

- ⦿ Appropriate URL (necessary but not sufficient!)
- ⦿ Author name(s)
- ⦿ Title of screen
- ⦿ Date of publication
- ⦿ Date accessed (because sites change)
- ⦿ *Note: for an online publication (such as a journal or book), other rules apply.*

EXAMPLE: SIMONS & SANDERSON (2011) EXCERPTS

Excerpt of text, p. 372:

In other ways as well, the Japanese patent system has moved closer to the US patent system over time.^{[4],[5],[6]}

Excerpt of references, p. 382 (non-APA style):

[4] Goto, A. and Motohashi, K., “Construction of a Japanese patent database and a first look at Japanese patenting activities,” *Research Policy*, 36, 1431-1442 (2007).

[5] Kotabe, M., “A comparative study of U.S. and Japanese patent systems,” *Journal of International Business Studies*, 23(1), 147-168 (1992).

[6] Motohashi, K., “Japan’s patent system and business innovation: reassessing pro-patent policies,” RIETI Discussion Paper 03-E-020 (2003).

#7: DIRECT QUOTES MUST BE CLEARLY IDENTIFIED.

- Direct quote = what the source says, verbatim (word-for-word)
- Distinguish what “they say” from what “you say” with quotation marks or indentation.
- Confirm that everything is exactly as presented; show:
 - Omissions with ellipses (three dots: ...)
 - Changes within square brackets
 - Oddities in the original with (sic)

EXAMPLE: SIMONS & SANDERSON (2011), EXCERPT FROM P. 372:

About four times as many LED-related patent applications have been filed with the Japan Patent Office (JPO) compared to the next highest number filed with the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). Reliance on USPTO data alone would ignore the large number of applications applied for in Japan, many filed for by Japanese companies. When granted patents rather than applications are used as the measure, the apparent gap between the US and Japan is much smaller, with only about 10-20% more patents granted in Japan than in the US. In fact this comparison is for many purposes more accurate. Japanese patent law before 2001 gave companies seven years from filing before they had to decide whether to pay for a full evaluation, whereas after 2001 the maximum time lag was shortened to three years. In other ways as well, the Japanese patent system has moved closer to the US patent system over time.^{[4],[5],[6]}

SHORT QUOTES ARE SHOWN BY QUOTATION MARKS

Simons & Sanderson (2011) note that “[a]bout four times as many LED-related patent applications have been filed with the Japan Patent Office (JPO) compared to the next highest number filed with the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)” (p. 372).

(Note the in-text citation & page number; keep sentences grammatically correct when adding a quote.)

LONG QUOTES ARE INDENTED, WITHOUT QUOTATION MARKS

Simons & Sanderson note that:

About four times as many LED-related patent applications have been filed with the Japan Patent Office (JPO) compared to the next highest number filed with the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)... When granted patents rather than applications are used as the measure, the apparent gap between the US and Japan is much smaller, with only about 10-20% more patents granted in Japan than in the US. (2011, p. 372).

MATCH QUOTES DIRECTLY TO ORIGINAL

Original:

About four times as many LED-related patent applications have been filed with the Japan Patent Office (JPO) compared to the next highest number filed with the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)....

When granted patents rather than applications are used as the measure, the apparent gap between the US and Japan is much smaller, with only about 10-20% more patents granted in Japan than in the US.

Short quote:

Simons & Sanderson note that “[a]bout four times as many LED-related patent applications have been filed with the Japan Patent Office (JPO) compared to ... the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)” (2011, p. 372).

#8: YOU WILL BE TEMPTED TO COPY ENTIRE SECTIONS. DON'T!

Your work should show *your* ideas, and how *you* make sense of the volume of details.

Info should be shaped to fit *your* point.

Consider how Simons & Sanderson focus on a main idea in their sources:

In other ways as well, the Japanese patent system has moved closer to the US patent system over time.^{[4],[5],[6]}

#9: “PARAPHRASING” MUST RESHAPE, NOT JUST TWEAK.

Minor changes do not show how *you* interpret the information.

Substituting synonyms or dropping words is not sufficient to count as paraphrasing.

PLAGIARISM OR NOT? (PART 1)

Original:

About four times as many LED-related patent applications have been filed with the Japan Patent Office (JPO) compared to the next highest number filed with the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

When granted patents rather than applications are used as the measure, the apparent gap between the US and Japan is much smaller, with only about 10-20% more patents granted in Japan than in the US.

Revised

One source says *that nearly* four times as many LED-related patent applications have been filed *in Japan than* filed with the US Patent Office.

Plagiarism! Which source?

PLAGIARISM OR NOT? (PART 2)

Original:

About four times as many LED-related patent applications have been filed with the Japan Patent Office (JPO) compared to the next highest number filed with the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). ... When granted patents rather than applications are used as the measure, the apparent gap between the US and Japan is much smaller, with only about 10-20% more patents granted in Japan than in the US.

Revised

Simons & Sanderson (2011) say *that nearly* four times as many LED-related patent applications have been filed *in Japan than* filed in the US (p. 372).

Plagiarism! The source is noted, but structure is the same.

PLAGIARISM OR NOT? (PART 3)

Original:

About four times as many LED-related patent applications have been filed with the Japan Patent Office (JPO) compared to the next highest number filed with the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)....

When granted patents rather than applications are used as the measure, the apparent gap between the US and Japan is much smaller, with only about 10-20% more patents granted in Japan than in the US.

Revised

When considering LED-related patents, Simons & Sanderson (2011) note that Japan has about 400% more requests compared to the U.S., but only 10-20% more patents (p. 372).

Okay: different structure & phrasing, source noted.

PLAGIARISM OR NOT? (PART 4)

Original:

About four times as many LED-related patent applications have been filed with the Japan Patent Office (JPO) compared to the next highest number filed with the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).... When granted patents rather than applications are used as the measure, the apparent gap between the US and Japan is much smaller, with only about 10-20% more patents granted in Japan than in the US.

Revised

Japan's dramatic lead in LED patent applications disguises a small lead in actual patents granted (Simons & Sanderson 2011, p. 372).

Paraphrased: different structure & phrasing, source noted, plus more concise & powerful!

#10: RECYCLING YOUR OWN WORK MAY BE “SELF-PLAGIARISM.”

“Intellectual property” is not the only consideration.

Re-submitting *your own* previous work for a later project, or submitting the same paper in two classes, may be considered misrepresentation.

BUT expanding on an earlier project or combining assignments into a larger project may be okay. Talk with your professor(s).

(Research & business writing has similar ethical concerns, especially for publications.)

OKAY, YOU KNOW THAT YOU NEED TO CITE. BUT HOW?

- Observe how info is handled in your textbooks and readings.
- Use style guides when preparing papers.
 - APA website:
<http://www.apastyle.org/>
 - Purdue's Online Writing Lab (OWL):
<owl.english.purdue.edu>
- Consult staff in Rensselaer's Center for Communication Practices (www.ccp.rpi.edu).
- Edit, review, and revise carefully.

HELP FOR CITING SOURCES

Bibliography software:

- ◉ Bibme <<http://www.bibme.org/>>
- ◉ Citation Machine
<<http://citationmachine.net/index2.php>>
- ◉ Citation Producer
<http://citationproducer.com/article/apa-format-generator/>

Research databases:

- ◉ Look for “cite” or “citation” option

ALWAYS EDIT THE OUTPUT!

- ⦿ Confirm that details are appropriately presented.
- ⦿ Compile all items into a single list in alpha or numeric order to match citations.
- ⦿ Reformat citations for consistent type size, font, indentation, line spacing, capitalization, and other aspects.
- ⦿ Review to be sure each in-text citation is listed & each source is cited in text.

SOME IMPORTANT TIPS

Remember the three most important aspects:

- ⦿ Provide in-text citations to track sources.
- ⦿ Provide a detailed source list at end, formatted to match citations & style guide.
- ⦿ Indicate quotes & avoid near-quotes.

RELATED TIPS

- ⦿ **Be meticulous:** gather all necessary info for every source.
- ⦿ **Be persistent:** you aren't the first to use a photo, email, blog entry, whatever: standards exist.
- ⦿ **Be consistent:** use the same sequence of details, punctuation, font, typesize, & capitalization for each entry.

AVOIDING PLAGIARISM?

This is one piece of a larger goal:

Building and maintaining intellectual integrity...

**here at Lally, and
throughout your career**

REFERENCES

- American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (6th ed.)*. Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association.
- Greenhouse, S., & Yardley, J. (2013, July 17). Under pressure, Bangladesh adopts new labor law. *New York Times*, 162(56200), A6. Accessed online.
- List of plagiarism incidents. (n.d.) Wikipedia. Accessed 8/20/13. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_plagiarism_incidents
- Simons, K.L., & Sanderson, S.W. (2011). Global technology development in solid state lighting. *International Journal of High Speed Electronics and Systems*, 20(2), 359-382. DOI: 10.1142/S0129156411006647
- Williams, R. (2008). *The non-designer's design book (3rd ed.)*. San Francisco: Peachpit Press.