



Survive Documentation and Avoid Plagiarism

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Plagiarism is unwarranted, undocumented use of someone else's work without their written permission. Works of art are copyrighted to protect reproduction or use of the work. There are two types of plagiarism:

Intentional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> representing someone else's ideas or words as one's own
Unintentional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> careless use of documented material using too many words/ideas of the original using too many words/ideas too close to the original not stating the source of the documented material

Documentation Manuals

Documentation of the sources is an ever-changing challenge because of the increase in electronic data.

At Gwynedd, the faculty uses several major systems of documentation developed by the disciplines themselves, although some individual faculty may assign other styles or variants. **Check with your instructor to find out which documentation style they require.**

Manual:	<i>MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 6th ed.</i>	<i>Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 5th ed.</i>	<i>American Medical Association Manual of Style: A Guide for Authors and Editors</i>
Used by:	English	Social Sciences History Education Nursing Science	Allied Health
Library Location:	Ask at Reference Desk 808.027 Gib 2003 (Also in ARC)	Ask at Reference Desk 808.06615 PM 2001 (Also in ARC)	Ask at Reference Desk 808.0661 AMA 1998 (Also in ARC)

Examples of APA and MLA format are available in the Academic Resource Center (ARC), the 2nd floor of Lourdes Library, or available for download at: <http://www.gmc.edu/academics/arc>

You may want to consider purchasing the latest edition for the documentation style manual for your field. They are widely available at bookstores.

Quick Tips for Documentation

- To break up long quotations, extract only those words you need to make your own sentence. Always include citation.
- Before you paraphrase, be sure you fully understand the original source.
- Always put author and date (APA) or author and page number (MLA) beside the quotation, paraphrase or summary.
- If you use the author's name (and title) to introduce a quote, do not include that information in the citation.
- When you have good material which does not fit into your text, include it as an explanatory endnote.

You will avoid plagiarism as you rework words and ideas to make them your own. As you read the definitions of ways to document sources and the examples that follow, you will get a better idea of how to document your own passages.

Notice that in both the MLA and APA examples, **credit to the source is given in both the direct quote and in the paraphrase and, in each case, the source appears in the Works Cited.**

Definitions

Direct Quotation: extract quotation from original and place in text.

Summary: a shortened form of the original ideas in your own words, usually retaining the order of ideas.

Paraphrase: a lengthened form of one idea in your own words, usually restating and explaining the idea in simpler words.

Examples: MLA Style

Direct quotation:

"In *The Pastures of Heaven*, readers first see the natural and poetic use of language familiar in Steinbeck's greatest works." (Burkhead 17).

Paraphrase:

The first of Steinbeck's works to use language in the poetic way for which he became famous is *The Pastures of Heaven*. (Burkhead 17).

Works Cited:

Burkhead, Cynthia. *Student Companion to John Steinbeck*. Westport: Greenwood, 2002.

Examples: APA Style

Direct quotation:

"In Canada and the US the russet Burbank is the favorite processing potato. It is therefore not surprising that the russet Burbank appeared on the market as the first trans-genetic potato, engineered to contain *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) toxins" (Kneen, 1999, p. 105).

Paraphrase:

The popular North American russet Burbank potato is said to have been the first genetically modified spud to contain Bt toxins (Kneen, 1999).

Works Cited:

Kneen, B. (1999). *Farmageddon: Food and the culture of biotechnology*. Gabriola Islands, BC: New Society Publishers

MLA and APA style examples from "You Quote It, You Note It," from the Vaughan Memorial Library at Acadia University, Nova Scotia, Canada. Available online at: <http://library.acadiau.ca/tutorials/plagiarism>
Handout adapted from "How to Survive Research and Avoid Plagiarism" by Dr. Anne Kaler & Dr. Lisa McGarry.