

# Beware of plagiarism\*!

it's easy  
it's tempting

...but it can be very costly\*\*!

Last year, more than 100 University of Ottawa students who were accused of plagiarism received various sanctions, including expulsion from the University.



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Canada's university

\* *To plagiarize is to borrow someone else's words or ideas without mentioning his/her name and/or without using quotation marks ("...").*

\*\* *Consult the Academic Integrity Website  
[web5.uottawa.ca/mcs-smc/academicintegrity/home.php](http://web5.uottawa.ca/mcs-smc/academicintegrity/home.php)*

[www.uOttawa.ca/plagiarism.pdf](http://www.uOttawa.ca/plagiarism.pdf)

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## **AVOIDING PLAGIARISM**

PLAGIARISM is taking another person's words, ideas or statistics and passing them off as your own. The complete or partial translation of a text written by someone else also constitutes plagiarism if you do not acknowledge your source.

Since we cannot always be original, it is entirely acceptable to present another person's ideas in our work. However, it must be done properly to avoid plagiarism.

### **PRINCIPLES AND RULES**

- When borrowing another person's words, use quotation marks and include a complete reference (author's name, date, pages).
- Internet sources must also be acknowledged.
- When borrowing another person's ideas, acknowledge their origin.
- Do not paraphrase another writer's words and pass them off as your own.

#### **TWO BASIC RULES:**

- If you use someone else's words, data, etc., use quotation marks and give a complete reference.
- If you borrow someone else's ideas, give a complete reference.

# EXAMPLES

## Should you want to use this source:

Over time technology has been instrumental in increasing industrial and agricultural production, improving transportation and communications, advancing human health care and overall improving many aspects of human life. However, much of its success is based on the availability of land, water, energy, and biological resources of the earth.\*

\* Pimental, D. (1998), Population growth and the environment: planetary stewardship, *Electronic Green Journal*: vol. 1: no. 9, article 10. Retrieved from <http://repositories.cdlib.org/uclalib/egj/vol1/iss9/art10>

## WHAT IS UNACCEPTABLE

### You wrote\*:

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Research has shown that **technology has been instrumental in increasing industrial and agricultural production, improving transportation and communications, advancing human health care and overall improving many aspects of human life. However, much of its success is based on the availability of land, water, energy, and biological resources of the earth.**

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Research has shown that the advancement of **technology has been instrumental in increasing industrial and agricultural production, improving transportation and communications, health care and overall many aspects of human life, (Pimental, 1998).**

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Research has shown that the advancement of science has been beneficial to the areas of agricultural and industrial production and communication and transportation fields. Furthermore, science has greatly improved health care and is the prime factor in a higher standard of life for many people.

### This is unacceptable because:

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- Other than the first four words, the text has been copied word for word from the original document without any quotation marks that would indicate that the passage is a quote.
  - The source you are using is not cited.

- 
- Even though you mention your source, you use many of the author's words without quotation marks.

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- Though most of the words have been changed, the sentence structure has remained the same.
  - This is paraphrasing without indicating the original source.
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\* The words in bold are used in the source text.

# WHAT IS ACCEPTABLE

## You wrote:

In his article on the effects of population growth on the environment, Pimental argues that “technology has been instrumental in increasing industrial and agricultural production, improving transportation and communications, advancing human health care and overall improving many aspects of human life. However, much of its success is based on the availability of land, water, energy, and biological resources of the earth” (1998).

## This is acceptable because:

- The author has been acknowledged, and the quoting technique which has been used is adequate since this is an Internet source. However, when you quote a printed source (book, journal, etc.), be sure to include the page numbers.

According to Pimental, “technology has been instrumental in increasing industrial and agricultural production, improving transportation and communications, advancing human health care and overall improving many aspects of human life” (1998). He cautions, however, that technological progress is dependent on natural resources.

- You have properly quoted and paraphrased the author.

According to Pimental (1998), technology has greatly improved our standard of living. He cautions, however, that technological progress is dependent on natural resources.

- This is the proper way to paraphrase and the author’s ideas have been credited.

## Referencing Styles

- *Writing and Style Guide for University Papers and Assignments*  
[www.sciencessociales.uOttawa.ca/guide-en.asp](http://www.sciencessociales.uOttawa.ca/guide-en.asp)
- Academic Writing Help Centre Online Resources  
[www.sass.uOttawa.ca/writing/undergraduate/online-document.php](http://www.sass.uOttawa.ca/writing/undergraduate/online-document.php)
- *How to avoid plagiarism*  
[www.socialsciences.uOttawa.ca/eng/documents/Howtoavoidplagiarism.pdf](http://www.socialsciences.uOttawa.ca/eng/documents/Howtoavoidplagiarism.pdf).
- *History Essay Guide*, prepared by the Department of History.  
[www.history.uOttawa.ca/pdf/history\\_essay\\_guide.pdf](http://www.history.uOttawa.ca/pdf/history_essay_guide.pdf)
- *Style Sheet. Working with Sources. Introduction to Research in English Literature*, prepared by the Department of English. For sale at the Campus Bookstore.
- “Says who?” *Integrity in Writing: Avoiding Plagiarism*  
[www.sass.uOttawa.ca/writing/kit/plagiarism.pdf](http://www.sass.uOttawa.ca/writing/kit/plagiarism.pdf)