

STATEMENT OF PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is stealing. Plagiarized papers automatically receive a failing grade.

Sometimes students plagiarize papers because they do not wish to do their own work, but sometimes they plagiarize because they do not fully understand what plagiarism is. This explanation should help you to understand and avoid plagiarism.

Plagiarism is stealing the words and ideas of someone else. If you copy sentences from a book, magazine article, newspaper, encyclopedia, or any other printed source and do not put quotation marks around the sentences, you are plagiarizing. If you paraphrase the sentence (put the ideas into your own words) but do not show where you got the ideas, you are plagiarizing.

All research papers use ideas and actual sentences from printed sources; therefore, it is important to learn how to use this material in your paper without plagiarizing.

The following sentences appeared in the New York Post on July 4, 1978 on page 4:

The police have begun a new drive against midtown vice by having decoy plainclothes women officers arrest men who patronize prostitutes. The new effort, begun quietly four months ago, has resulted in more than 150 summonses, which could result in fines of up to \$250 each. Many of the cases that have reached court so far ended in fines of \$25 or less. Midtown police say the change in emphasis is in part a recognition that male customers contribute to the problem as much as the prostitutes.

- A. If you wanted to use a sentence or two from this source, you would name the source, copy the words and punctuation exactly and put quotation marks around them. Your quote would look like this:

According to the New York Post (July 4, 1978), “The police have begun a new drive against midtown vice by having decoy plainclothes women officers arrest men who patronize prostitutes” (Smith 4).

If you had not used quotation marks, you would have plagiarized. Following the final quotation marks, put in parenthesis the last name of the author and the page number. If there is no author, put the article title in abbreviated form in parenthesis with the page number.

B. If you wanted to put the main point of the sentences into your own words, you would name your source but not use quotation marks. Your paraphrase might look like this:

According to the July 4, 1978 issue of the New York Post, women police officers dressed in street clothes now apprehend men who pay for the services of prostitutes (Smith 4).

Note: Commonly used words such as men and prostitutes may be used in a paraphrase without placing quotation marks around them.

C. However, sometimes a paraphrase may contain phrases from the original. If your paraphrase includes phrases from the original, those phrases must be in quotation marks. If you do not do this, you are plagiarizing. The following is an example of plagiarism:

According to the New York Post on July 4, 1978, there is a new drive against vice in midtown Manhattan because decoy plainclothes women officers are now apprehending men who patronize prostitutes.

Notice that the phrases a new drive against, decoy plainclothes women officers, and men who patronize prostitutes are quoted, but they do not have quotation marks around them. The writer has just changed a few words. That is plagiarism, even though the writer refers to the New York Post.

A paraphrase containing quoted phrases should look like this:

According to the New York Post (July 4, 1978), there is “a new drive against” vice in midtown Manhattan because “decoy plainclothes women officers” are now apprehending “men who patronize prostitutes” (Smith 4).

D. Remember to list all of the sources that you have used in your bibliography.