



# Citing Sources and Avoiding Plagiarism

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SUNY POTSDAM COLLEGE WRITING CENTER

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- ▶ Access our handouts from our webpage.

# SUNY Potsdam Writers' Block



- ▶ Ask for an appointment at any time in your writing process.
  - ▶ Visit Carson 105 during weekdays
  - ▶ Email [writersblock@Potsdam.edu](mailto:writersblock@Potsdam.edu)
  - ▶ Tutor request form on our Writers' Block webpage
- ▶ Plan ahead to book an appointment. Walk-ins might be available Monday through Thursday 3-5pm as well as evenings and weekends.

# Citation is key to academic honesty and excellence.

- ▶ **Professors expect you**
  - ▶ to go to excellent sources,
  - ▶ to learn from others, and
  - ▶ to give credit clearly and consistently: to show exactly where you're using outside info and where you're using your own analysis.
- ▶ **Therefore,**
  - ▶ Use sources with perfect accuracy
  - ▶ Honestly give credit
  - ▶ Reveal all through citing in your paragraphs and in your bib

# Simple enough

- ▶ Teacher video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nr\\_i0RN7j\\_o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nr_i0RN7j_o)
- ▶ SUNY Potsdam Academic honor code  
<http://www.potsdam.edu/studentlife/studentconduct/honorcode/>

And yet, it's not so simple. College citation includes these steps in your paragraphs. This is "in-text" citation:

- ▶ **Consistently show when you are using another author's words OR ideas**
- ▶ **Mention author in sentence**
- ▶ **Paraphrase completely into your own words**
- ▶ **Show author and page number in parentheses**
  - ▶ **For quotations AND paraphrases**

# And in your bibliography:

- ▶ **Connect parentheses to your bibliography**
- ▶ **Include all sources**
- ▶ **Correctly format in required “style”**

# What should it look like?

Rebecca Augustine,  
“Acceptable Topics in Comedy”

- ▶ Using lots of sources
- ▶ Finding proof for my concept
- ▶ Citing *all* sources
  
- ▶ See Citation Basics handout
- ▶ Four ways to cite in-text: reference in sentence, paraphrase, short quote – all in Rebecca’s paper -- plus the long block quote on our Citation Basics handout



What should it look like?

Look at other student samples.

They're not perfect, but they're decent!

- ▶ <http://local10109.blogspot.com/2010/04/fort-drum-and-north-country.html>
- ▶ <http://local10109.blogspot.com/2010/04/college-students-how-they-treat.html>

# PRACTICE three forms of citation.

1. Paraphrase from a sample paper and mention the author's last name in your sentence, with page number in parentheses.
2. Again, paraphrase from a sample paper, but now cite the author's last name and page number in parentheses.
3. Now, write an original sentence which includes a short quote from the student author in it. Cite the author's last name and page number in parentheses.
4. How would you create a bibliography entry for Rebecca's paper?

# Avoid Plagiarism

The next video dramatizes four types of plagiarism.

- ▶ “A Quick Guide” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VnTPv9PtOoo>
  - ▶ Cape Fear CC, NC. SKIP 4:57-5:37; stop at ‘permanent record’
- ▶ “Sampler”: Combining sources without completely paraphrasing AND citing. Always cite every source, every time, using one of those four methods.
- ▶ “Ghost writer”: handing in another student’s work. Obviously.
- ▶ “Photocopy”: copy and paste from source. Always use quotation marks on exact words, and cite author/page, or paraphrase and cite author/page.
- ▶ “Remix”: changing a few words while claiming its yours. Obviously.

# Consequences at SUNY Potsdam:

- ▶ Referral to Student Conduct Office
  - ▶ Re-education
  - ▶ Hearing
  - ▶ Suspension/Expulsion
  - ▶ May appear on transcript in the future

“A Plagiarism Carol” – from Norway

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mwbw9KF-ACY>

# Consequences, two:

- ▶ Damage to your credibility with your instructor and others, including relationship within the course/major, general impression, and references.
- ▶ Harmful impact on your learning: not integrating new material into your knowledge base; not preparing for more interesting and rewarding projects.
- ▶ Permanent digital footprint: Jack Kelley, Stephen Glass, Jayson Blair

# Three Golden Rules of College Citation

by Writers' Block tutors

- ▶ When in doubt, cite it! Cite in your paragraphs AND in your bibliography.
- ▶ Always cover your...self (save your sources & share your process with your professor).
- ▶ Resist academic temptation (to use sources incorrectly).

# Summary: So simple and so complicated

- ▶ Cite paraphrases and quotations
- ▶ Use quotation marks on exact words – three or more
- ▶ Paraphrase completely
- ▶ Correctly format bib
  - ▶ Build bib as you go
  - ▶ Include every source
  - ▶ Share your research; save your sources
  - ▶ Alphabetize; who is the author?
  - ▶ Using citation machines
- ▶ Submit your own work, and don't resubmit old work.

# Use the Writers' Block

- ▶ See our links!
- ▶ Free, fun, friendly, and helpful.
- ▶ Plan ahead: make time for getting help and revising more. Book a follow-up appointment.
- ▶ Weekdays in Carson 106, Evenings in Sisson, and Sunday afternoons in Crumb Library Research Center.