

## How to Avoid Plagiarism

According to the [Purdue Online Writing Lab](#), also known as OWL, most students do not intend to



plagiarize; they usually attempt to document material from outside sources in their writing, but they don't always document this source material correctly. For instance, a student might cite a direct quote from a source but forget to put quotation marks around the quote. Conversely, a student might misquote the original source and put quotation marks around a chunk of text that was not actually copied word for word. While both of these examples are forms of documentation error, they can be easily prevented.

The best way to prevent documentation error involves taking careful notes of one's sources. OWL urges students to identify sources with an **S**, all quoted material with a **Q**, and personal ideas with **ME**. When paraphrasing, OWL recommends that students rely on their own memories to avoid copying words and phrases from the original source.

The Writing Place at Northwestern University suggests that students use introductory phrases like "according to" or "the author says" to distinguish quoted material from their own ideas. The student should also double-check that all quoted material and all paraphrased material has been documented in the paper and that all entries listed in the Works Cited page or bibliography have been formatted correctly.

Please visit these links for more information on avoiding plagiarism:

- <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/03/>
- <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/563/1/>

### Work Consulted

Aaron, Jane E. *The Little, Brown Essential Handbook*. 7th ed. Boston: Longman, 2011. Print.