

# Plagiarism & Misuse of Sources

## How to Avoid Them

### Plagiarism

UCF's Department of Writing & Rhetoric has adopted the definition of plagiarism from the Council of Writing Program Administrators (WPA): "*In an instructional setting, plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else's language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source. This definition applies to texts published in print or on-line, to manuscripts, and to the work of other student writers.*"

### Misuse of Sources

The WPA distinguishes *plagiarism* from *misuse of sources*: "A student who attempts (even if clumsily) to identify and credit his or her source, but who misuses a specific citation format or incorrectly uses quotation marks or other forms of identifying material taken from other sources, has not plagiarized. Instead, such a student should be considered to have failed to cite and document sources appropriately."

Council of Writing Program Administrators. "Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: The WPA Statement on Best Practices." *Council of Writing Program Administrators*. Jan. 2003. Web. 16 Nov. 2011. <<http://wpaouncil.org/node/9>>.

### What Materials Require Acknowledgement?

- Quotations, paraphrases, and summaries of words, ideas, and opinions of others
- Visual and statistical material and computer programming code derived from others
- Facts not widely known and arguable claims
- Help from others

The following examples illustrate ways to avoid plagiarism by quoting, citing, and paraphrasing source material. **Whether you paraphrase or quote, you need an entry for each source in the Works Cited or References section of your paper. See the UWC's other handouts for correct formats.**

### ORIGINAL SOURCE

"Argument is very much a part of what we do every day: We confront a public issue, something that's open to dispute, and we take a stand and support what we think and feel with what we believe are good reasons. Seen in this way, argument is very much like conversation. By this, I mean that making an argument entails providing good reasons to support your viewpoint, as well as counterarguments, and recognizing how and why readers might object to your ideas. The metaphor of conversation emphasizes the social nature of writing."

From Stuart Greene's  
"Argument as Conversation: The Role of Inquiry in Writing a Researched Argument"

### QUOTING

#### Quoting & Citing in MLA Format

In-text citation:

In his essay "Argument as Conversation: The Role of Inquiry in Writing a Researched Argument," Stuart Greene reminds us that good arguments include "good reasons to support your viewpoint, as well as counterarguments, and recognizing how and why readers might object to your ideas" (145).

MLA Works Cited entry:

Greene, Stuart. "Argument as Conversation: The Role of Inquiry in Writing a Researched Argument." *The Subject is Research*. Ed. Wendy Bishop and Pavel Zemliansky. Portsmouth, NH: Boynton/Cook, 2001. 145-64. Print.

UCF University Writing Center      (407) 823-2197      <http://uwc.ucf.edu/handouts.php>

## Quoting & Citing in APA Format

In-text citation:

Greene (2001) pointed out that good arguments include “good reasons to support your viewpoint, as well as counterarguments, and recognizing how and why readers might object to your ideas” (p. 145).

APA References entry:

Greene, S. (2001). Argument as conversation: The role of inquiry in writing a researched argument. In W. Bishop & P. Zemliansky (Eds.), *The subject is research*. (pp. 145-64). Portsmouth, NH: Boynton/Cook.

## PARAPHRASING

An effective paraphrase accurately represents the author’s ideas in your own words and sentence structures. If you quote some of the author’s words within your paraphrase, enclose them in quotation marks.

### Misuse of Source: Using the Author’s Words

The following is not plagiarism because the writer attempts to cite the source. It is a “misuse of sources” because the writer relies too heavily on the author’s words (underlined):

In his essay “Argument as Conversation: The Role of Inquiry in Writing a Researched Argument,” Stuart Greene points out that argument is what we do every day. When we confront a public issue, something that’s open to disagreement, we take a stand and defend what we think and feel with good reasons. In other words, good arguments require providing good reasons to support your viewpoint, as well as counterarguments, and recognizing how and why others might object to your ideas. Writing, asserts, Greene, is social, like conversation (145).

### Misuse of Source: Using the Author’s Sentence Structures

Although the following paraphrase uses the writer’s own words, it is another example of “misuse of sources” because it follows the author’s sentence structures (underlined) too closely:

In his essay “Argument as Conversation: The Role of Inquiry in Writing a Researched Argument,” Stuart Greene points out that argument is central to what we do everyday: We tackle a controversial subject, something that people disagree about, and we stake out a position and defend our views with reasons to support them. To put it another way, argument is similar to conversation. In Greene’s view, making an argument requires good reasons to defend your views, as well as opposing points, and acknowledging how and why others might disagree. The idea of conversation highlights that writing is a social activity (145).

### Effective Paraphrase

Below is a paraphrase that expresses the author’s ideas effectively and includes a brief quotation:

In his essay “Argument as Conversation: The Role of Inquiry in Writing a Researched Argument,” Stuart Greene compares academic writing to joining a conversation. Just as conversation is central to our everyday lives, so is argument. Whenever we tackle a controversial issue, we support our viewpoints with reasons. Good arguments also anticipate and seek to understand opposing views. “The metaphor of conversation,” says Greene, “emphasizes the social nature of writing” (145).