

1) Plagiarism happens when you fail to attribute a source's words or ideas. This may happen accidentally when you have an incomplete citation (unintentional plagiarism) or it could be more serious when you pass off the words or ideas of someone else as your own (deliberate plagiarism).

Original passage on page 359 from Diana Hacker's *A Writer's Reference*:

“Three different acts are considered plagiarism: (1) failing to cite quotations and borrowed ideas, (2) failing to enclose borrowed language in quotation marks, and (3) failing to put summaries and paraphrases in your own words.”

Failing to cite quotations and ideas:

Plagiarism can occur in three ways: not citing quotes and borrowed ideas; not using quotation marks; and not writing paraphrases and summaries in your own words.

Failing to use quotations for exact words of a source:

Diana Hacker explains in *A Writer's Reference* that plagiarism can occur in several ways, including not citing the words or ideas of others, “failing to enclose borrowed language in quotation marks,” or making the mistake of **failing to put summaries and paraphrases in your own words** (359).

Failing to use your words for paraphrases and summaries:

Diana Hacker explains in *A Writer's Reference* that plagiarism can occur in three ways. She lists these: (1) failing to cite quotations and borrowed ideas, (2) failing to enclose borrowed language in quotation marks, and (3) failing to put summaries and paraphrases in your own words (359).

The best way to avoid plagiarism is by simply crediting the ideas you read to the source. Suppose you have the same ideas? Credit them to the source since your instructors have no way of knowing what you are thinking, but they will know what you have read.

2) Proper introduction of a source helps prevent plagiarism. This also helps your reader know what the source says, what section of your paper is based upon research, and what parts are your ideas. Many introductions use signal phrases or words that “signal” you are about to quote a source:

Diana Hacker, author of *A Writer's Reference*, describes using a signal phrase as a way of “marking boundaries” between words of a source and those of the writer (407-8).

The page number creates the boundary that Hacker refers to, helping the reader differentiate between what the source states

and your opinion.

But many online sources have no pages, and without a parenthetical citation, your reader may not know where the source's information ends.

But what do you do when you are reading a story on an online website or blog? For example, let's say you are reading a story by Judy Lin about marriage trends in *The Huffington Post*, an online news website and blog. While the site has no pages, you can still introduce the article with a signal phrase and use a parenthetical citation to show where the story ends and your opinion begins:

"Fewer Couples Choose Marriage" from *The Huffington Post*

describes how many young couples are choosing to live together rather than legally wed. "While marriage is important to many, younger couples are choosing to raise children without it" (Lin). As long as a child has two parents who provide a stable home, it truly does not matter if the parents are married.

To cite an article from an online magazine, website, or blog, this is the format you use for your Works Cited entry:

Works Cited

Lin, Judy. "Fewer Couples Choose Marriage." *Huffington Post*. 25 Sept. 2010. Web. 25 Aug. 2011.

2) Signal phrases also can help clarify indirect sources. An indirect source occurs when you are citing an author who is quoting someone else or someone else's work, which often occurs in scholarly articles. Note that the "qtd. in" goes before the source you actually consulted:

Arthur Miller says, "When somebody is destroyed everybody finally contributes to it, but in Willy's case, the end product would be virtually the same" (qtd. in Martin and Meyer 375).

A better solution is to try to find the original source by checking Martin and Meyer's bibliography.