

What it takes to avoid plagiarism

Academic Support Centre

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Academic Support Centre



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**Academic
writing**

Presenting

Study skills

You come late. When you arrive, others have long preceded you, and they are engaged in a heated discussion, a discussion too heated for them to pause and tell you exactly what it's about....You listen for a while, until you decide that you have caught the tenor of the argument; then you put in your oar. Someone answers; you answer him; another comes to your defense; another aligns himself against you....The hour grows late, you must depart. And you do depart, with the discussion still vigorously in progress.

-Kenneth Burke, *The Philosophy of Literary Form*

**What is
plagiarism?**



LUND
UNIVERSITY

2012 policy says...

“Plagiarism is a lack of independence in the design and/or wording of academic work presented by a student compared to the level of independence required by the educational context.”



LUND
UNIVERSITY

2012 policy says...

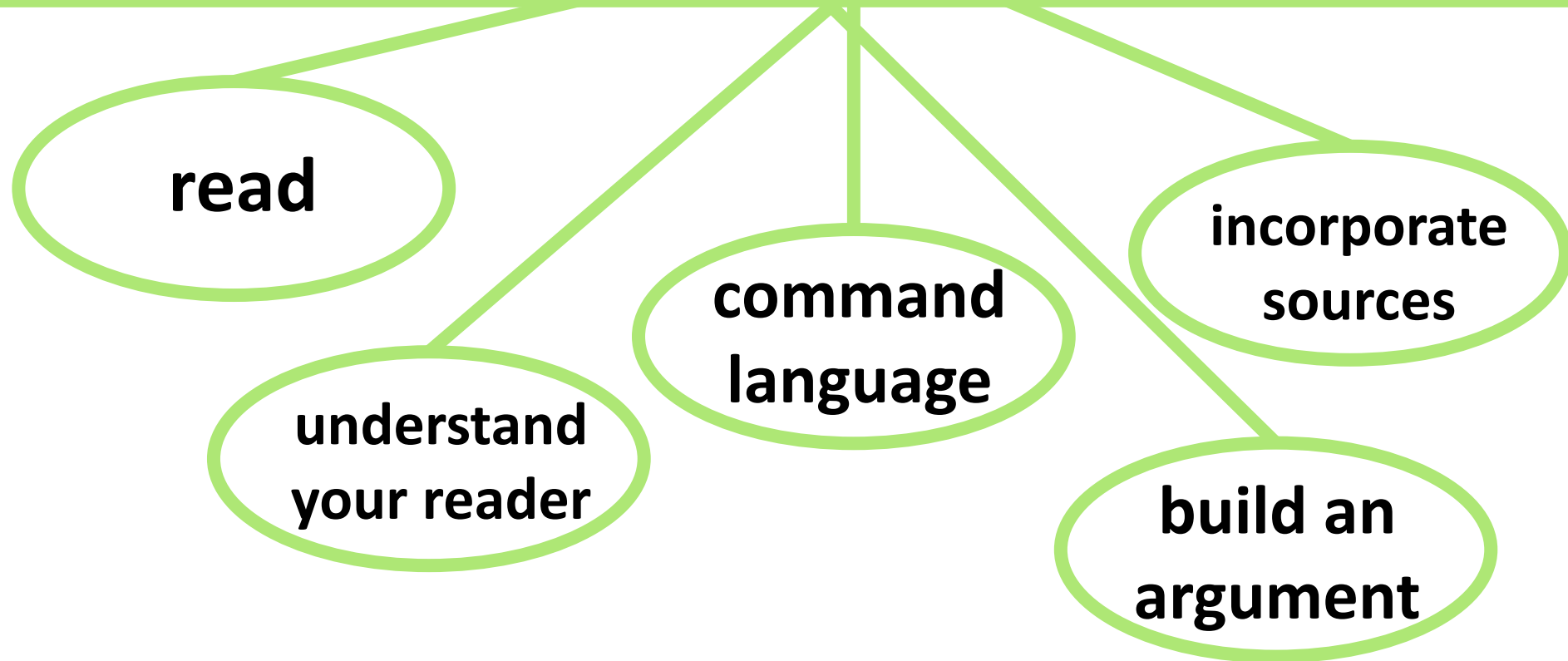
“Deceitful plagiarism is a lack of independence combined with an intent on the part of the student to present the work of others as his or her own.”

Remember...

The **goal** of academic writing is not to avoid plagiarism.

The **goal** is to ask an original question and answer it, to make a claim about a topic, discuss that claim with and in relation to others and through that discussion to advance research and thinking in your field.

In order to accomplish that **goal**, you have to first be able to do some other things successfully. And it just so happens that if you can do those things, you will avoid plagiarizing altogether.



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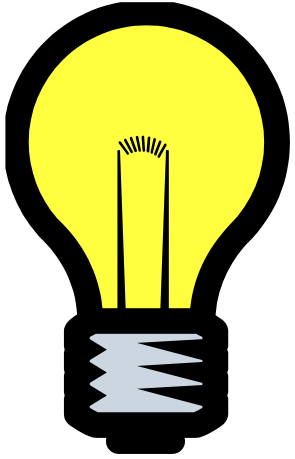




read

**to understand the whole
source & to reflect on it**

- What type of text is this and what do I need from it?
- What is the purpose of this text and how does each part contribute to that purpose?
- What conversation is this author engaged (why and how do they use sources)?
- What is the author's **argument** (claim, reasons, evidence), and the underlying assumptions behind it?
- How does this text reflect **writing norms** in my field?



Tip!

When taking notes, don't focus only on the text's sentence level. Research shows that **sentence-mining** is too common among current students.

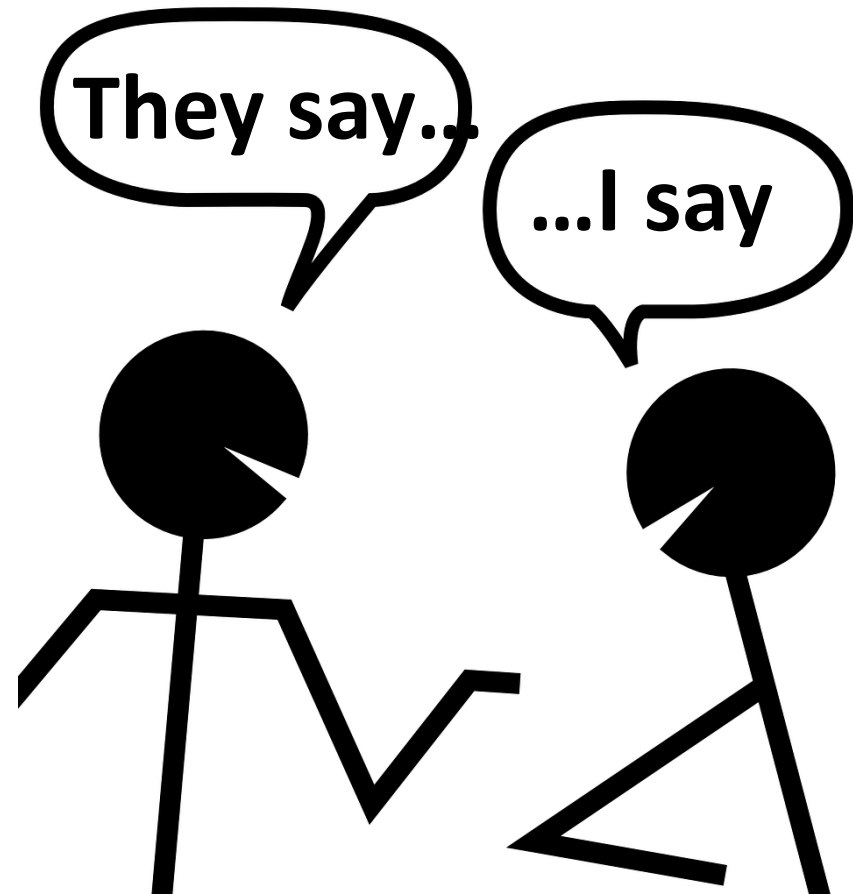
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graph LR; A([incorporate sources]) --- B([why?])
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**incorporate
sources**

why?

**incorporate
sources**

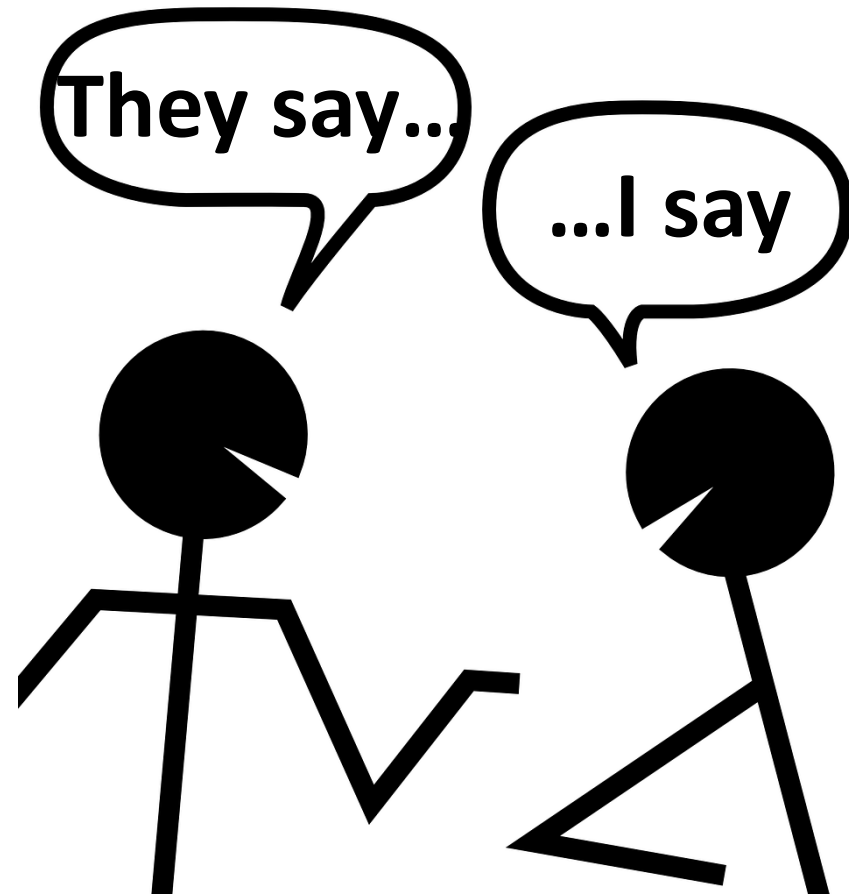
why?

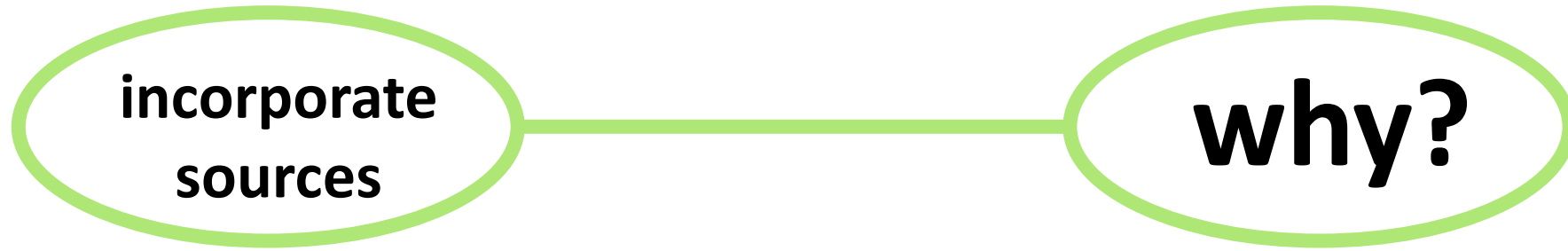


**incorporate
sources**

why?

Readers need
to be able to
follow the
conversation, to
see who is
speaking when





The source...

- gives a definition
- explains a context
- provides evidence for something
- provides a counterargument to engage with
- is text that you will analyze
- others?

**incorporate
sources**

how

- Summarize
- Paraphrase
- Quote

Reference

**Acknowledgment of
source use both in-text
and in a reference list.**

Harvard, MLA, APA,
Chicago, Vancouver...

- Summarize

- Paraphrase

- Quote

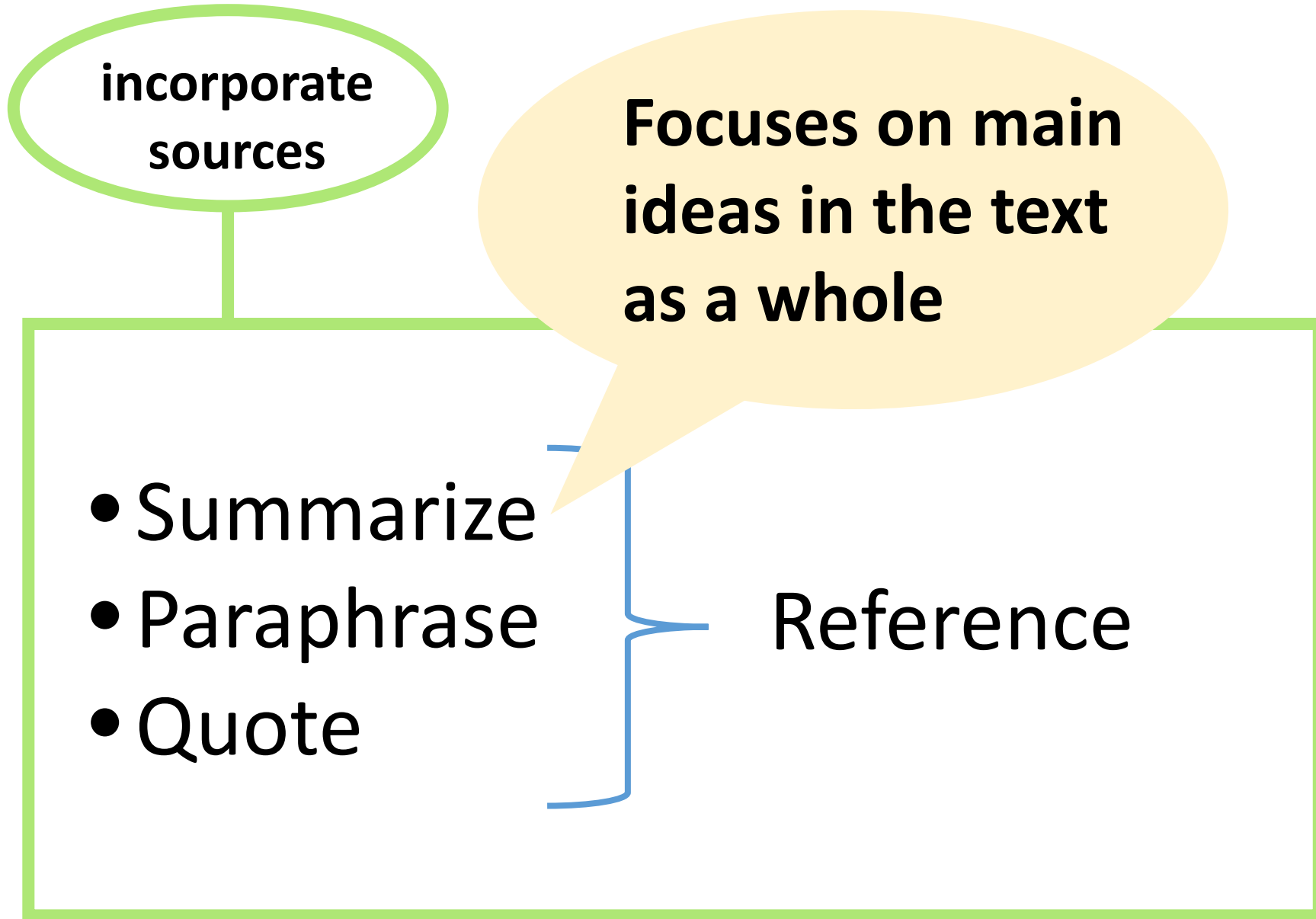
Reference

**incorporate
sources**

**Focuses on main
ideas in the text
as a whole**

- Summarize
- Paraphrase
- Quote

Reference



Original

The debate about Whorf's ideas has, until now, been mostly conducted in the context of the psycholinguistic empirical research tradition which grew out of anthropological inquiry into the relationships between the language and other aspects of culture in the 1940s and 1950s.

Lee, P (1999). *The Whorf Theory Complex*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins. P. 27.

Summary

Lee (1999, p. 27) claims that the understanding of Whorf's work derived from research in language and culture in the 1940s and 1950s.

Example from:

Davies, M. (2011). *Study Skills for International Postgraduates*. L New York: Palgrave Macmillan, p. 54-59

**incorporate
sources**

```
graph TD; A([incorporate sources]) --- B[Summarize<br/>Paraphrase<br/>Quote]; B --- C([Rewording of a sentence-level detail in a source's text])
```

- Summarize
- Paraphrase
- Quote

**Rewording of a
sentence-level
detail in a source's
text**

Original

The problem of obedience is not wholly psychological. The form and shape of society and the way it is developing have much to do with it. There was a time, perhaps, when people were able to give a fully human response to any situation because they were fully absorbed in it as human beings. But as soon as there was a division of labor things changed.

Milgram, S. (1974). The perils of obedience. In L.G. Kirsznner & S.R. Mandell (Eds.) *The Blair reader* (pp.725-737). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Paraphrase

Milgram (1974) claims that people's willingness to obey authority figures cannot be explained by psychological factors alone, but also includes social factors. In an earlier era, people may have had the ability to invest in social situations to a greater extent. However, as society has become increasingly structured by a division of labor, people have become more alienated from situations over which they do not have control (p.737).

Example from:

<http://usingsources.fas.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k70847&pageid=icb.page350378>

Original

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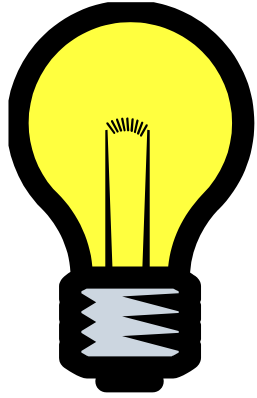
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Tip!

A proper paraphrase uses less than 20% of source's language. More than 20% and you are at risk for **patchwriting**, a form of plagiarism.

Table 5.2 Sample From Source Text and Student Paper

	Student text (page 6 of paper)	Source text (page 2 of source)
(1) Paraphrase	Evidence of a jump in interest can be seen in a jump from <u>258 journal articles</u> that were <u>published</u> in <u>1996</u> on the subject of <u>cannabis</u> , to <u>over 2,100 studies</u> that were published in <u>scientific journals</u> in <u>2008</u> (Recent Research on Medicinal Marijuana).	A keyword search using the terms "cannabis, 1996" (the year California voters became the first of 14 states to allow for the drug's medical use under state law) reveals just <u>258</u> scientific <u>journal articles published</u> on the subject during that year. Perform this same search for the year <u>2008</u> , and one will find <u>over 2,100 published</u> scientific <u>studies</u> .
(2) Patchwriting	Most importantly, <u>investigators are now studying the anti-cancer properties of cannabinoids</u> . There is an <u>increasing amount of preclinical and clinical data</u> that <u>conclude that cannabinoids stop the spreading of specific cancer cells</u> through <u>programmed cell death</u> and the <u>prevention of the forming of new blood vessels</u> (Recent Research on Medicinal Marijuana).	<u>Investigators are also studying the anti-cancer activities of</u> cannabis, as a <u>growing body of preclinical and clinical data</u> <u>concludes that cannabinoids</u> can reduce <u>the spread of specific cancer cells</u> via apoptosis (<u>programmed cell death</u>) and by the <u>inhibition of angiogenesis (the formation of new blood vessels)</u> .
STUDENT CITATION: "Recent Research on Medical Marijuana." NORML. April 1, 2009. www.norml.org/Index.cfm?Group_ID=7002 .		

Paraphrase

Patchwriting

From Jamieson, S. and R.M. Howard (2013). "Sentence-Mining: Uncovering the Amount of Reading and Reading Comprehension in College Writers' Researched Writing." *The New Digital Scholar: exploring and enriching the research and writing practices of NextGen students*. New Jersey: American Society for Information Science and Technology. P. 109-131

Paraphrasing strategies

- Put away the original
- Use a combination of strategies:
 1. Use synonyms
 2. Use different parts of speech
 3. Change the order of ideas
 4. Break long sentences into shorter ones or combine shorter sentences into longer ones
 5. Make abstract ideas concrete

The more strategies you use simultaneously, the better!

Paraphrasing strategies

1. Use synonyms

- think about → mull over
- huge impacts → great effects
- standard process → usual steps

Challenge with this strategy: not all synonyms are equal!

If you're in doubt, look up the synonym in a dictionary and find examples of it used in other sentences.

Paraphrasing strategies

1. Use synonyms

2. Use different parts of speech

- Marx's ideas → Marxist ideas (noun → adjective)
- had an impact → impacted (noun → verb)
- X conducted a study → _____ (noun → verb)

Paraphrasing strategies

1. Use synonyms

2. Use different parts of speech

3. Change the order of ideas

- Effects of climate change include _____ and _____
 - Climate change has caused _____ and _____
 - _____ and _____ are results of climate change.

Reminder: just this change will not yield a successful paraphrase, but it's one of several to use at the same time!

Paraphrasing strategies

1. Use synonyms
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Paraphrasing strategies

4. Break long sentences into shorter ones or combine shorter sentences into longer ones

- “This article proposes a feminist reinterpretation of just war theory as the revitalization that just war theory needs. It explains this feminist just war theory based on relational autonomy, political marginality, empathy, and care. It introduces some feminist ‘standards’ for considering the morality of war.” (Sjoberg abstract) →
- Sjoberg (2008) revises just war theory through a feminist lens, using “relational autonomy, political marginality, empathy, and care” to propose moral guidelines of war. (quote + paraphrase)

Paraphrasing strategies

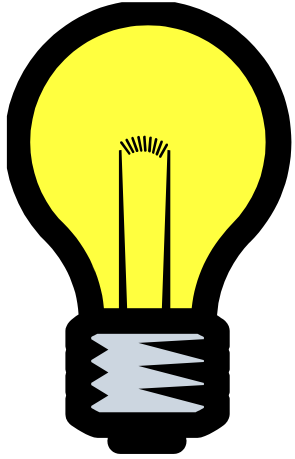
1. Use synonyms
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 - The data are inconclusive on the superiority of either mode of measurement.
→ Neither method A nor method B measured _____ better than the other.

**incorporate
sources**

- Summarize
- Paraphrase
- Quote

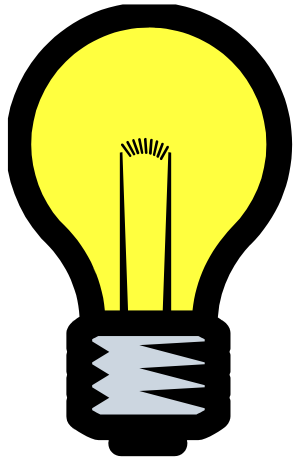
Reference

**Source's exact words
and punctuation in
quotation marks.**



Tip!

Summarize and paraphrase
more than quote directly.



Tip!

Ask a librarian about looking
for sources and referencing
systems!

Original:

The two most important legal systems in the Western World today are the English Common Law and the Roman Civil Law. Countries such as Australia and the United States have inherited the Common Law.

Brennan, J. J., & Marantelli, S. E. (1980), *Commercial and Legal Studies*. 4th edn. Melbourne: Hargreen, p. 175.

Student's:

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Examples on the following slides from:
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Student's:

The two most important legal systems in the Western World today are the English Common Law and the Roman Civil Law. The impact of these systems on a number of first-world countries around the world has been considerable. According to Brennan and Marantelli, “countries such as Australia and the United States have inherited the Common Law (Brennan and Marantelli, 1980, p. 175).

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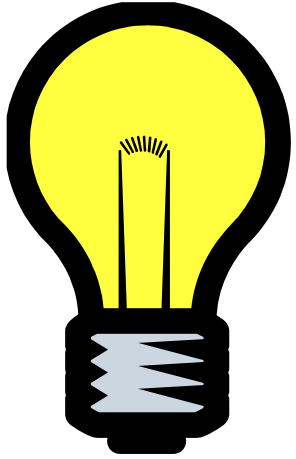
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Student's:

Brennan and Marantelli (1980) explain that in the western world today two legal systems predominate. These are known as English Common Law and Roman Civil Law. The impact of these systems on a number of first-world countries around the world has been considerable. Developed countries such as the USA and Australia gained the use of Common Law by inheriting it from earlier decisions of courts and similar tribunals (p. 175).



Tip!

Plagiarism is often easily detectable by shifts in language quality. **It's better to use your own words with grammatical mistakes** than take text without mistakes as your own. Plagiarism is a much worse offense than poor grammar.

Resources

The Harvard Guide to Source Use

<http://usingsources.fas.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do>

AWELU

<http://awelu.srv.lu.se/>

Recognizing and Avoiding Plagiarism Quiz

Cornell University, College of Arts and Sciences

<https://plagiarism.arts.cornell.edu/tutorial/exercises/questions.cfm>

They Say/I Say:

The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing

By Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein

