

Combating Plagiarism

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“If we cannot place a reasonable degree of trust in our scholars, we cannot trust anyone.”

**A.D. Nuttal, Professor of English, University of Oxford
from his book, Dead From the Waist Down**

This tutorial will cover the basics for you to combat plagiarism

Major Topics Covered

- **Defining Plagiarism**
- **Becoming Aware of the Problem**
- **Rules to Avoid Plagiarism**
- **McKendree College's Policy**
- **Benefits to Following the Rules**
- **Style: the Basics**
- **Plagiarism Tutorial**
- **Resource WebPages**

What is Plagiarism?

- A paper or assignment actually written in whole or part by another.
- A paper or assignment copied word-for-word or with only minor changes from a book, magazine, or other resource.
- A paper copied in part from one or more sources, without proper identification and acknowledgment of the sources.
- A paper which is merely a paraphrase of one or more sources, using ideas and/or logic without credit, even though the actual words may be changed.

What is Plagiarism? Definitions

Note the definition differences in the [Oxford Reference Collection](#)

- **Fraud:** outright purchase or copying of an entire paper, perhaps with a new introduction and conclusion added. In some cases, such copying may entail copyright infringement.
- **Substantial plagiarism:** widespread or considerable borrowing of material, passing off borrowed passages as original, failure to indicate quoted evidence or give bibliographical sources or other appropriate credit.
- **Incidental plagiarism:** small-scale borrowing, copying, downloading, or insertion without appropriate quotation, credit, or acknowledgement.
- **Free of plagiarism:** Fully original research and writing with total acknowledgement of all ideas, quotations, cited evidence, and sources.

Strategies of Awareness:

Educate yourself about plagiarism

- Understand why students cheat. Students are most tempted to copy a paper when they have planned poorly and run out of time near the due date for a paper. If you structure your research so that intermediate parts of it (topic, early research, prospectus, outline) are accomplished at regular intervals, you will be less likely to get in a time-pressure panic and look for an expedient shortcut.
- As easy as it is to "borrow" someone else's paper over the Internet, it is even easier to detect. There are several hundred online services where you can purchase or receive free term papers. Don't ruin your academic career over an impetuous act or laziness.

Two Simple Rules for Avoiding Plagiarism

Do your own work.

Give credit where credit is due.

Cite Your Sources Properly

- Let the reader know whose thoughts are being used to make the point and provide the appropriate documentation
- Campus Policy
 - ***No person shall submit as his own to an instructor any work which contains ideas or materials taken from another without full acknowledgment of the author & the source.***
McKendree's Academic Integrity Policy

The Benefits of Citing Sources Properly

- Many students do not seem to realize that whenever they cite a source, they are strengthening their writing. Citing a source, whether paraphrased or quoted, reveals that they have performed research well and synthesized the findings into their own argument. Using sources shows that a student is engaged in "the great conversation," the world of ideas, and that the student is aware of other thinkers' positions on the topic. By quoting (and citing) writers who support the student's position, the student gains strength for the position. By responding reasonably to those who oppose it, the student shows that there are valid counter arguments. In a nutshell, citing helps make the essay stronger and sounder.
- It's never been more important for you to get in the habit of giving credit to those who supplied you with valuable ideas, pictures, photographs, etc. And, it's never been simpler to cite them correctly. Check the [Citing Sources](#) hyperlink from the [Library's homepage](#).

Strategies of Awareness: Ethical and Legal Issues

- Recognize the larger issues regarding information literacy and plagiarism. These ethical questions do not go away once you are finished with school. They deal with how you are perceived and judged in the “real world” – at home, at work and professionally. After all, stealing is illegal, immoral & unethical. Just ask an Enron manager.
- The information literate student understands many of the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information and accesses and uses information ethically and legally.
- Understanding the legal and ethical issues surrounding information is much more than plagiarism, the current "hot topic." Other significant aspects include the freedom of speech, privacy, intellectual property, fair use & more.

Advice on Changing Attitudes & Behaviors

- Change bad habits. In the past, it may have been satisfactory to get “facts” from any information source. Now you will be required to **EVALUATE** the sources you examine, providing **quality** information from experts and the actual facts.
- Every faculty member at McKendree College is interested in helping you write and perform research effectively. You have many resources to reach out to: your **professor**, **Holman Library**, the **Writing Center** and **Style Manuals**.

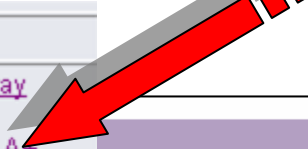
Information Literacy Defined

Within the context of lifelong learning and the broad information continuum which ranges from data to knowledge to wisdom, information literacy competency focuses on six broad abilities:

- to recognize the need for information**
- to know how to access information**
- to understand how to evaluate information**
- to know how to synthesize information**
- to be able to communicate information**
- to be able to ethically use information**

Bibliographic Style Aids at the Library

Quality Information	Getting Help
Find Books & Journal Articles	Have a Question? Ask?Away
Database List	How Do I...? Library FAQ
I-Share: Find Books & More	Citing Sources in APA, MLA+ Tutorials
Resources by Discipline	Information for Students
Find a Specific eJournal	Information for Graduate Students
Borrow from Another Library	Information for Faculty & Staff
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APA Style

American Psychological Association apastyle.org

[How Do I..?](#)
[McKendree College Writing Center's Resources](#)
[OWL's Using APA Style](#)

The following is excerpted from the 5th edition of the APA Publication Manual. The material provided covers commonly asked questions regarding how to cite electronic media. Please note that there have been changes in APA's style guidelines for electronic resources with the publication of the 5th edition of the Publication Manual. (The Manual **BF 76.7 .P83 2001** is always on reserve at the Circulation Desk.)

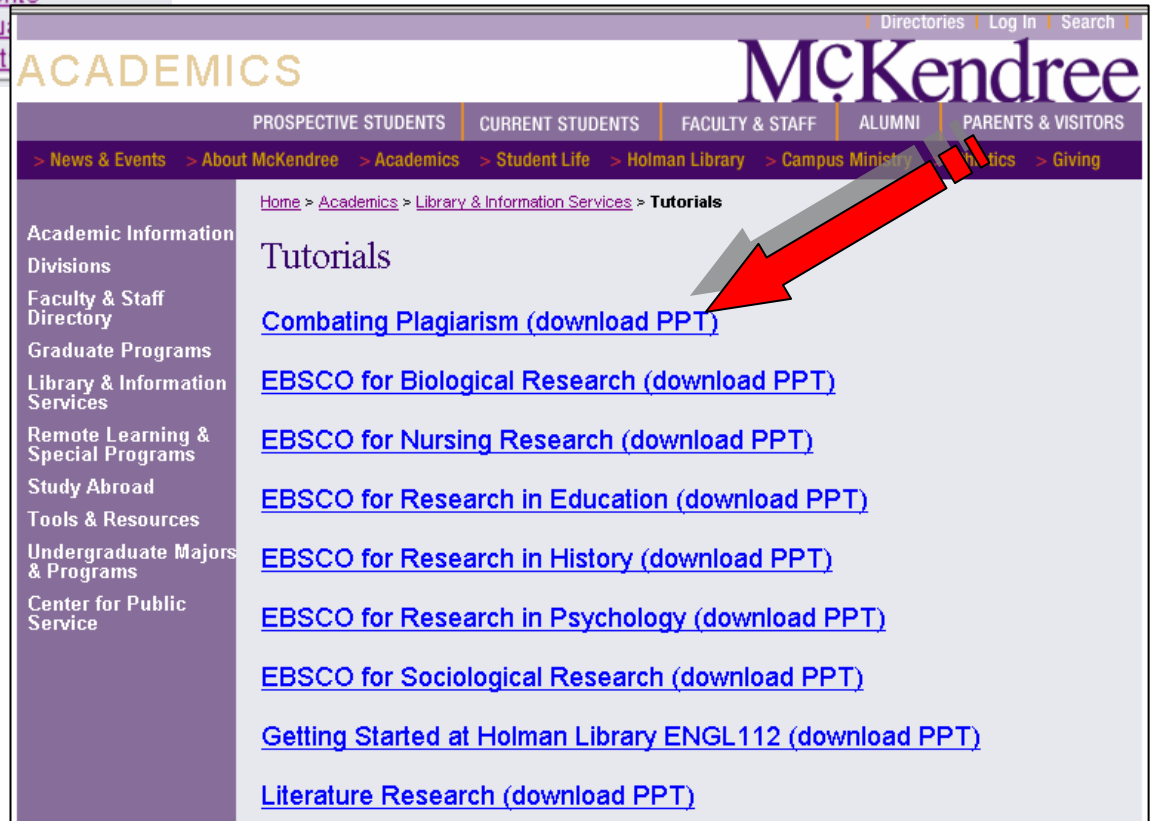
Because electronic media change rapidly, we will update this page regularly as there are additions, changes, or clarifications to APA style.

Basic Reference Format for Online Journals from the EBSCO Databases:

- Academic Information
- Divisions
- Faculty & Staff Directory
- Graduate Programs
- Library & Information Services
- Remote Learning & Special Programs
- Study Abroad
- Tools & Resources
- Undergraduate Majors & Programs
- Center for Public Service
- Scholars Journal of Undergraduate Research
- McKendree Academic Support Center

Tutorials

Quality Information	Getting Help
Find Books & Journal Articles	Have a Question? Ask a Librarian
Database List	How Do I...? FAQ
I-Share: Find Books & More	Citing Sources in APA, MLA+
Resources by Discipline	Tutorials
Find a Specific eJournal	Information for Students
Borrow from Another Library	Information for Graduate
Suggest a Purchase	Information for Faculty



The screenshot shows the McKendree University Academics website. The navigation bar includes links for Prospective Students, Current Students, Faculty & Staff, Alumni, and Parents & Visitors. A breadcrumb trail reads: Home > Academics > Library & Information Services > Tutorials. The main content area is titled "Tutorials" and lists several resources, each with a "download PPT" link. A red arrow points to the "Combating Plagiarism" link.

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> News & Events > About McKendree > Academics > Student Life > Holman Library > Campus Ministry > Athletics > Giving

Home > Academics > Library & Information Services > Tutorials

Tutorials

- [Combating Plagiarism \(download PPT\)](#)
- [EBSCO for Biological Research \(download PPT\)](#)
- [EBSCO for Nursing Research \(download PPT\)](#)
- [EBSCO for Research in Education \(download PPT\)](#)
- [EBSCO for Research in History \(download PPT\)](#)
- [EBSCO for Research in Psychology \(download PPT\)](#)
- [EBSCO for Sociological Research \(download PPT\)](#)
- [Getting Started at Holman Library ENGL112 \(download PPT\)](#)
- [Literature Research \(download PPT\)](#)

**Tutorials are available
any time and cover
almost every one of
our databases**

The Issues: For More Information

Avoiding Plagiarism by Sharon Williams
Hamilton College Writing Center

Center for the Study of Ethics in the Professions

Electronic Plagiarism Seminar by Gretchen Pearson
Le Moyne College

Evaluating Information by Betsy Richmond
University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire

Plagiarism: What It is & How to Recognize & Avoid It
Writing Tutorial Services, Indiana University

Resource Guide for Promoting Academic Honesty
College of Arts & Sciences, Syracuse University

Need Help?: Visit the **Writing Resource Center**

Clark 201, 537-6858, writingcenter@mckendree.edu

Our philosophy at the Writing Resource Center is to help writers help themselves. What that means is that we will not just proofread a paper. Our job is instead to help students become better writers. We offer help with the following:

- 1. Developing invention techniques**
- 2. Creating a good thesis**
- 3. Improving organizational skills**
- 4. Improving audience awareness**
- 5. Improving unity and coherence**
- 6. Improving proofreading skills**
- 7. Improving grammar skills**
- 8. Developing sentence clarity**
- 9. Developing methods of revision**
- 10. Improving research and documentation skills**

Please visit, call or email



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