



Avoiding Plagiarism and Citing Sources

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Ways to Avoid Plagiarism:

- Use **Direct Quotations** if you want to use the author’s exact language. Use quotations to make an impact or back up an argument. As a general guideline, quotations should make up no more than 10% of your paper.

Example:

In the introduction to his book *Gun Control*, Harry Henderson states “the intensity of the gun debate has varied and tends to peak in times of social turmoil” (4).

- **Paraphrasing** is taking an author’s idea and rewriting it in your own words. Paraphrasing too lightly is considered to be a form of plagiarism, so always check to make sure your paraphrase is not too similar to the original text.

Example:

Original Text

The intensity of the gun debate has varied and tends to peak in times of social turmoil. It was fueled by assassinations and racial violence in the 1960’s, an upsurge in crime in the 1970’s, and a new waves of drug related violence in the 1980’s.

Excerpt from *Gun Control* by Harry Henderson, page 4.

Paraphrase

Historically, issues surrounding gun control have ranged from decade to decade, gathering greater momentum during crime waves, and periods of violence due to conflicts involving race or drugs (Henderson 4).

- **Summarizing** is condensing an author’s ideas into a few sentences using your own words.
- Remember to always cite your source. MLA and APA are the two most used citation styles at Quincy College. Always ask your instructor which style they prefer.

Anatomy of a Citation: Book

Author / **Title** / **Place of Publication** / **Publisher** / **Date** / **Medium**

MLA citation:

Henderson, Harry. *Gun Control.* **New York: Facts on File, Inc., 2000. Print.**

APA citation:

Henderson, H. (2000). *Gun Control.* **New York: Facts on File, Inc.**

NOTE: Please see the Library’s MLA or APA Style guides for more information on citing sources.