

# Guide for Accurately Using Sources

Since you're often asked to support your ideas with outside sources, it's important to recognize when others' facts, opinions, and ideas contribute to your writing. There are three ways to present material from sources; the trick is to do so accurately (and thus avoid the dreaded "P" word: plagiarism).

## *A Sample Passage*

Here is a quotation from Robert Frost (the same one that appears at the entrance to the L building):

Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or your self-confidence.

Accurate Summaries	Plagiarized Summary
<p>According to Robert Frost, education promotes objectivity (29).</p> <p>Robert Frost suggests that education allows people to separate thought from emotion (29).</p>	<p>Education is the ability to maintain objectivity.</p> <p>Even though this summary is accurate, this example is plagiarized because</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ ➔ The key words are too close to the original.</li> <li>➔ ➔ The person who expressed the idea is not mentioned.</li> </ul>
Accurate Paraphrase	Plagiarized Paraphrase
<p>Robert Frost asserts that education gives people the power to consider alternative viewpoints without getting involved emotionally (29).</p>	<p>Robert Frost says that education is the ability to listen to anything without getting emotionally involved.</p> <p>Even though Frost is mentioned, this example is plagiarized because</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ ➔ The key words are too close to the original.</li> <li>➔ ➔ The sentence structures too closely resemble the original.</li> </ul>
Accurate Quotation	Plagiarized Quotation
<p>"Education," Robert Frost states, "is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or your self-confidence" (29).</p>	<p>Education allows you to consider other views without losing your temper or your self-confidence.</p> <p>This example is plagiarized because</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ ➔ There are no quotation marks to show that parts of the idea were expressed by someone else.</li> <li>➔ ➔ The person who expressed the idea is not mentioned.</li> </ul>