

Writing the Paper

Now is the moment of truth, when all that hard work in researching your topic will pay off, or you'll find that due to lack of research you have very little to say. Hopefully the latter is not the case.

Before you begin writing the paper, be sure you have organized your thoughts. My recommendation is to arrange your note cards, on a rather large table or on the floor, into rows and columns or in any fashion that seems rational to you.

The next step is to create an outline of your paper. Outlines follow a hierarchical pattern of topics, subtopics, details, and comments. A numbered outline follows the following format:

1. Introduction
 - a. Provide a motivator or "hook" to grab your reader's attention
 - b. Introduce topic
 - c. State Thesis: what solution(s) or insight about topic will you offer?
 - d. Briefly describe some of the main points you will offer in support of your solution or insight
2. Body Paragraph (begin with a transitional word or phrases)
 - a. Introduce a supporting point or point of information
 - b. Clarify any terms or concepts that the point involves
 - c. Offer examples or evidence of this point
 - d. Provide commentary on the efficacy of this supporting point
 - e. Provide a clincher sentence that reiterates the point of the paragraph

If you are presenting a controversial, debatable issue, you may find that the body of your paper is roughly divisible into three sections:

1. Provide one side of the issue
2. Provide the other side of the issue
3. Refute one side's points as you support the other's

Whatever format you choose, remember that an outline is simply a rough sketch of your paper, before you need to worry about things like correct grammar and punctuation. In any case, constructing an outline takes less time and makes more sense than writing a "rough draft". Once you have a working outline, you are ready to write the paper! It's a good idea to keep in mind the rubric as you write:

	<i>Poor</i> < 65	<i>Satisfactory</i> 65-79	<i>Good</i> 80-89	<i>Excellent</i> 90-100
Meaning	Lacks thesis; no focused topic	Vague thesis; topic too broad or too narrow	Solid thesis & understanding of topic	Insightful; thorough understanding of challenging topic
Development	No evidence from research	Lacks specific evidence- 3 or fewer sources	Specific evidence; many sources (8+)	Ample specific evidence from many various sources
Organization	Little to none	Unorganized; no transitions	Logical; makes use of transitional words & phrases	Well-conceived; intricate transitions
Language	Not grade level	Simple	Fluent	Sophisticated
Mechanics	Replete with spelling & grammatical errors; not formatted	Errors hinder comprehension; not properly formatted	Errors only when using sophisticated language; Some flawed formatting	Nearly flawless; largely conforms to MLA standards

Avoiding Plagiarism

What is Plagiarism? Plagiarism is using others' ideas and words without clearly acknowledging the source of that information.

How Can Students Avoid Plagiarism? To avoid plagiarism, you must give credit whenever you use:

- another person's idea, opinion, or theory;
- any facts, statistics, graphs, drawings—any pieces of information—that are not common knowledge;
- quotations of another person's actual spoken or written words; or
- paraphrase of another person's spoken or written words.

How to Recognize Unacceptable and Acceptable Paraphrases

Here's the ORIGINAL text, from page 1 of *Lizzie Borden: A Case Book of Family and Crime in the 1890s* by Joyce Williams et al.:

The rise of industry, the growth of cities, and the expansion of the population were the three great developments of late nineteenth century American history. As new, larger, steam-powered factories became a feature of the American landscape in the East, they transformed farm hands into industrial laborers, and provided jobs for a rising tide of immigrants. With industry came urbanization the growth of large cities (like Fall River, Massachusetts, where the Borden family lived) which became the centers of production as well as of commerce and trade.

Here's an UNACCEPTABLE paraphrase that is **plagiarism**:

The increase of industry, the growth of cities, and the explosion of the population were three large factors of nineteenth century America. As steam-driven companies became more visible in the eastern part of the country, they changed farm hands into factory workers and provided jobs for the large wave of immigrants. With industry came the growth of large cities like Fall River where the Borden family lived which turned into centers of commerce and trade as well as production.

What makes this passage plagiarism? The preceding passage is considered plagiarism for two reasons: 1) the writer has only changed around a few words and phrases, or changed the order of the original's sentences, and 2) the writer has failed to cite a source for any of the ideas or facts.

If you do either or both of these things, you are plagiarizing. Here's an ACCEPTABLE paraphrase:

Fall River, where the Borden family lived, was typical of northeastern industrial cities of the nineteenth century. Steam-powered production had shifted labor from agriculture to manufacturing, and as immigrants arrived in the US, they found work in these new factories. As a result, populations grew, and large urban areas arose. Fall River was one of these manufacturing and commercial centers (Williams 1).

Why is this passage acceptable? This is acceptable paraphrasing because the writer: 1) accurately relays the information in the user's own words, and 2) lets her reader know the source of her information.

Here's an example of quotation and paraphrase used together, which is also ACCEPTABLE:

Fall River, where the Borden family lived, was typical of northeastern industrial cities of the nineteenth century. As steam-powered production shifted labor from agriculture to manufacturing, the demand for workers "transformed farm hands into industrial laborers," and created jobs for immigrants. In turn, growing populations increased the size of urban areas. Fall River was one of these hubs "which became the centers of production as well as of commerce and trade" (Williams 1).

Why is this passage acceptable? This is acceptable paraphrasing because the writer: 1) records the information in the original passage accurately, 2) gives credit for the ideas in this passage, and 3) indicated which part is taken directly from her source by putting the passage in quotation marks and citing the page number.

Adapted from Indiana University Writing Tutorial Services: <http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml>

English 10

Research in Contemporary Social Issue

Citing Sources: The Basics

Your in-text citations should accomplish three things:

1. They should clearly announce to your readers that you are presenting material from a source other than yourself. In accomplishing this, you avoid the charge of plagiarism.
2. They should properly direct your readers to the full documentation provided in your Works Cited page. Therefore, as you create your citations, it is important that you consider the manner in which your sources are documented, as there must be an agreement between the citations and the documentation on your Works Cited page.
3. They should provide reference to the specific location of the quotation or information being cited. Some sources, like books and magazines, have page numbers.

Citing Reference Sources within the Text of your Paper:

Health education instructors of the 1950s promoted abstinence, and largely ignored any other preventative means (Markham 5).

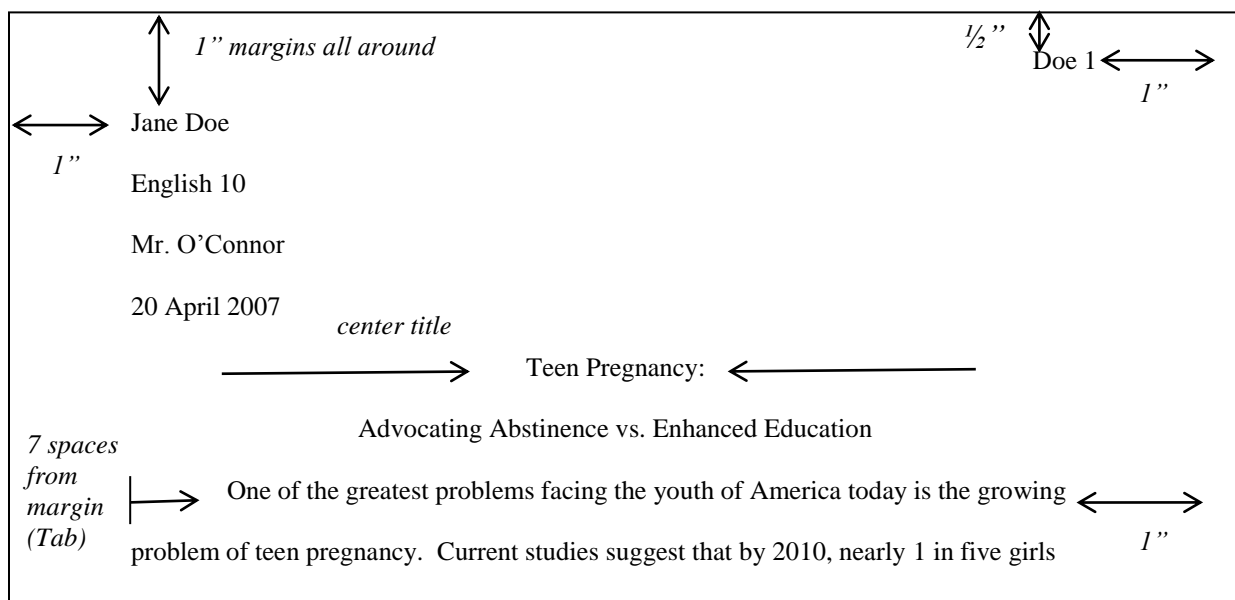
According to historian Mark Markham, Health education instructors of the 1950s promoted abstinence, and largely ignored any other preventative means (5).

Health education in the 1950s “avoided sex education like the plague” (Markham 5) and relied heavily on the message of abstinence.

Health educators in the 50s were overwhelmingly teaching abstinence, by a 10 to one margin (Markham 5), whereas currently Health classes provide a blended overall message of abstinence and protection (Aspinwall 72).

Basic 1st Page Format

- The first page includes important information such as your name, instructor's name, course title, and date, and title of the essay
- Remember consistency: every page has last name and page number at top right, and every bit of your text is double spaced!!!
- All pages should have a one-inch margin around edges of text; name/page# should be ½" from top and 1" from right side



English 10

Research in Contemporary Social Issue

ORGANIZE YOUR SOURCES ON A WORKS CITED PAGE

The Works Cited page is where you document in full the sources of your research. Any fact that did not come from your own

- The Works Cited page follows the last page of your paper and is numbered sequentially, using the proper header format.
- The title of your Works Cited page will appear 1" from the top margin; centered; with NO bold, all-caps, italics, underlining, or quotation marks.
- Your first entry, alphabetized by author's last name, or first major word of the title when author is unknown, will begin at the left margin, two lines below your page title.

Here's a sample Works Cited page by someone with the last name of Jones:

Jones 8

Works Cited

Andrews, Mike. Interviewed on March 23, 2012.

Edwards, Gail, and Erica Smith. Work in the 90s. New York: McMillan, 1997.

Ford, Fiona. "Living with ADD." Medicine News Sept. 1997: 89-96.

Hamilton, Edith, ed. Writing to Be Read. London: McQuade Co., 1986.

Jones, Jessica. The Elements of Expression. Chicago: Harcourt, 1997.

"Symbolism in The Scarlet Letter." Sept. 1997. Date visited: 6 Sept. 1997.
<<http://www.Hawthorne.webcom.com/index.html>>.

Winthrop, Josh. "Princess Di Dead at 36." New York Times 1 Sept. 1997: A1.

Notice the student's last name is ½" from the top; this is the eighth page of the paper.

Works Cited appears centered 1" from top. (please don't title this page "Works Cited Page")

All text is double spaced; 2nd line of an entry is indented 5 spaces.

Remember the rule for punctuating titles: short works like articles and webpages are in quotes, longer works like publications and books are in italics or underlined

Find names of authors of web pages whenever possible. If not, alphabetize according to page name.

URLs are contained in "<" and ">"

Try to keep the URL on one line.

Entries are alphabetized according to the first word in each entry.

For more information on MLA, go to: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>