

Plagiarism and citation

What is plagiarism?

Copying the *wording* or the *ideas* of someone else without giving them credit.

Note that you can plagiarize even with a citation if you are not careful. See below.

So, what does this mean in practice?

If you use someone else's ideas, you must acknowledge them. In the case of writing in chemistry, this means indicating you used someone's ideas at the point in your writing *where you use them*. Usually, we use a number in the text and then a numbered reference list. That means that each time you cite the same source, you just put the same number in the text.

Using their exact words? Use quotes and cite. (Guideline: using more than 3 words in a row that are content based, i.e. not something like "and so it"). Note that quotes are very rare in science writing, as usually the exact words are not as important as the concepts.

It is much more common to paraphrase *and cite*. Paraphrasing means writing the concepts in your own words. Note that this doesn't mean just re-arranging their words or keeping their word order and replacing each word with a synonym from the thesaurus. **Improper paraphrasing, even with citation, is plagiarism.**

It is also very important that you don't plagiarize each other.... You can work with your lab partner or others on calculations, but the words (and results!) in your reports need to be your own.

ACS reference style:

Journal article (note: even if found on-line, it is not considered a web site):

Holliday, A.E.; Salter, O.C.; Dunham, S.U. Amazing studies in chemistry at Moravian College. *Chemistry at Moravian* **2019**, *21*, 312-318. (Note: 21 is the volume number)

Book with authors:

Holliday, A.E., Dunham, S.U. *Talking About Chemistry*; Moravian Press: Bethlehem, USA, 2019.

Book with editors:

Holliday, A.E., Bertucci, M., Eds. *The Official Guidebook of Chemistry*, 2nd ed.; Moravian Press: Bethlehem, 2019.

Website:

Moravian College Chemistry Department program of study;

<https://www.moravian.edu/chemistry/program-of-study> (accessed January 10, 2019).

(Note: If a title is not apparent on the page, come up with a descriptive title.)