

Is this Plagiarism? Questions to Ask Before Turning in Your Paper¹

1. Have I included a list of all sources I quoted or borrowed ideas from at the end of my paper?
2. Have I used in-text or parenthetical citations within my paper wherever I have used another person's words or ideas—even if I have expressed those ideas in my own words?
 - For each five days a student waits to begin a paper after it is assigned, the final grade generally decreases about 10% (*St. Cloud State University Student Handbook* online).
 - Some gorillas nest with their parents into adulthood (Wang 45).
3. Do my in-text or parenthetical citations correlate with a source entry on the Works Cited page²?
4. Have I enclosed all quotations in quotation marks? This includes even just a couple of unique words from the original.
 - Example: Dr. Jones says that the government's refusal to acknowledge global warming with "swift and decisive legislation" has proved devastating to the environment (Wagner 332).
 - If we punish "environmental criminals" with harsh enough penalties to hurt their "corporate pocketbooks" and their reputations, then we might be able to reduce the amount of particulates being released into the atmosphere each year by companies such as West Virginia Coal, Gas, and Refrigeration (Rausch).
5. Have I quoted a source accurately?
6. Have I represented an author's ideas accurately?
7. Have I cited and documented all information—even non-print information like speeches, emails, websites, musical lyrics, graphic images, lectures, radio programs, television shows, interviews, and conversations with authorities like your professor?
8. Have I given accurate documentation information (i.e., authors, page numbers, URL's, publishing information, etc.) in in-text citations and in Works Cited Pages.

¹ This handout assumes that your paper was written by you.

² Works Cited page refers to the bibliographic list at the end of your paper. In other formats, the list is called References, Reference List, Source List, Bibliography, etc. See other Write Place handouts for further citation format information.