Writing a Research Paper?

Here are some tips to help you avoid plagiarizing someone else's work.

Avoid These 5 Unreliable Sites

Unreliable sites[1] often contain material taken from other sources without citation. If you use them, you might unintentionally be plagiarizing, so it is best to avoid these sites:

1. Wikipedia
2. Answers.com
3. Yahoo! Answers
4. Slideshare
5. Scribd

Avoid These 3 Poor Work Habits

Poor work habits[2] can lead to a less-than-stellar research paper — and plagiarism. To avoid plagiarism caused by inattention, avoid these work habits:

1. Not keeping detailed notes on each piece of research with sources listed
2. Not indicating in your notes whether you have paraphrased or summarized a source's words
3. Not citing a source when you are not sure if you have paraphrased or summarized

Credit These 5 Source Types

To avoid presenting other people's ideas as your own, you must give credit to, or cite, the following sources[3]:

1. Any part of a text you directly quote in your paper
2. Any part of a text you paraphrase
3. Any part of a text you summarize
4. Any person's original thoughts, opinions or ideas
5. Any facts, statistics, graphs or information that is not "common knowledge"

[1] "A Comparison of Internet Sources for Secondary and Higher Education Students," Turnitin.com
[2] plagiarism.org
[3] EBSCO Student Success Tool

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