



Avoiding Plagiarism

Writing Center Hours: 8:30 AM – 8:30 PM M–Th,
8:30 AM– 4:30 PM F, 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM S–S
Email: okc.tutoring@okstate.edu
Phone: 405-945-3278

Definition: Plagiarism is the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as your own.

Keep Quotes Short: Do not copy large amounts of text from your sources. Try to limit your quotes to four lines of your essay. Your explanation of the quote should be at least as long as the quote itself. Block quotes may be necessary for citations that are one paragraph or longer.

Example:

Text – Russets are ideal for light and fluffy mashed potatoes. They also fry up crisp and golden brown, and are the potato of choice for baking. The delicate flavor and fluffy texture of baked russets goes well with a variety of toppings, from traditional sour cream and chives to spicy and bold Mediterranean or Latin flavors. Try cutting into planks or wedges to make delicious homemade fries.

Quote – According to Potatoes USA, “Russets are ideal for light and fluffy mashed potatoes. They also fry up crisp and golden brown, and are the potato of choice for baking.” This suggests that the optimal potato for any baking or frying needs is the russet potato, a large brown potato commonly found in restaurants or grocery stores.

- Note – Out of that thick paragraph, only two lines were used for the quote, followed by explanation

In-Text Citations: It is important for your evidence that you cite any quotes you may use in APA or MLA format. Here are some quick examples:



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APA:

According to Hackney (2023), “The nursing program at OSU-OKC is one of a kind” (p. 42).

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MLA:

According to Hackney, “The nursing program at OSU-OKC is one of a kind” (42).

“The nursing program at OSU-OKC is one of a kind” (Hackney 42).

Paraphrasing: When paraphrasing, you must still include an in-text citation. Let’s go back to the potatoes example:

Text - Russets are ideal for light and fluffy mashed potatoes. They also fry up crisp and golden brown, and are the potato of choice for baking. The delicate flavor and fluffy texture of baked russets goes well with a variety of toppings, from traditional sour cream and chives to spicy and bold Mediterranean or Latin flavors. Try cutting into planks or wedges to make delicious homemade fries.

Paraphrase - **According to Potatoes USA**, the optimal potato for any baking or frying needs is the russet potato. Not only do they have the ideal fluffy texture, but they are easily complimented by a number of toppings, ranging from traditional American flavors to more daring flavors from across the world. **Potatoes USA goes on to suggest** russet potatoes for a fantastic batch of homemade french fries.