

Citing Evidence and Avoiding Plagiarism

Name: _____ Date: _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

The student will correctly quote and paraphrase source material and create a basic citation.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- a printed or online article (1 page)
- index cards
- pen
- ruler
- highlighter

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. Choose one article related to your research topic and highlight 2 sentences that contain useful evidence.
2. On one index card, copy one highlighted sentence word-for-word in quotation marks — this is a direct quote.
3. On a second index card, rewrite the other highlighted sentence completely in your own words and sentence structure — this is a paraphrase.
4. On a third index card, write a basic citation for the article: Author (or Organization), 'Title of Article,' Website Name, Date.
5. Trade your paraphrase card with a family member or read it aloud yourself and check: does it use different wording and structure than the original, while keeping the same meaning?

QUESTIONS

1. Write your direct quote card exactly as it should appear with quotation marks.
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2. Write your paraphrase and explain one way you changed it from the original.
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3. Why is it not enough to just change a few words when paraphrasing?
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4. What information should always be included in a basic citation?
