Avoiding Plagiarism with
**APA Style Citation**, 6th Edition

Bow Valley College’s Learner Handbook defines plagiarism as:

> “that which is represented as one’s own work and has been deliberately copied from any outside source, including other students’ work” (2016, p. 7).

Plagiarism is a serious offense with consequences that may include:

- A failing grade on an assignment or in a course
- Permanent documentation on a student’s academic record
- Expulsion from the program of study or the college

A citation provides descriptive information about a published source (such as a book, film or article) that allows the reader to retrieve it. It is a recognition of intellectual work and the legal ownership of that work.

Citations are placed in two parts of academic writing:

1. In the text of the paper when a source is quoted, paraphrased, or summarized ("in-text citations")
2. In an alphabetical list at the end of the paper ("reference list")

**ALWAYS CITE:**

- Unique phrases, words, opinions, theories or ideas of others taken from an article, book, newspaper, film, website, or any other source
- Reprinted diagrams, illustrations, charts, or pictures
- An idea, opinion or theory found in non-traditional, "unpublished" forms, such as conversations, interviews, or blog comments

**Examples of Plagiarism...**

- Buying a paper in any form
- Hiring or letting someone do your assignment
- Stealing or "borrowing" all or part of someone else's work
- Patching together a paper by copying and pasting from different sources without citing any of it
- Submitting the same or a similar assignment more than once
- Selling or allowing others to copy your work
- Copying something word for word but not using quotation marks
- Using significant ideas, concepts or facts without a citation, even if it is paraphrased
- Paraphrasing too closely by making only small changes to a passage
- Citing a source you did not actually find and read

**Quoting & Paraphrasing In APA Style**

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<th>Definition</th>
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| Quotation is using the **exact words of the original source**. Quotations should be:
  - short (fewer than 3 sentences)
  - enclosed in quotation marks: “…”
  - introduced with a signal phrase such as “According to…” or “As argued by….”
| Matheson (2012) stated that Leif Eriksson was "the first European to set foot on North American soil, almost 500 years before Columbus" (p. 290). |
| A paraphrase is:
  - a **detailed restatement of essential information and ideas** expressed by someone else
  - presented in a new form using different words
  - one legitimate way to borrow from a source, provided the original is recognized through citation. |
  | In research papers students often quote excessively. Since the problem usually originates during note taking, it is essential to minimize the material recorded verbatim (Lester, 1976, pp. 46-47). |
A citation “style” is a set of rules that provide consistency so a reader may easily refer to the original source in order to evaluate, validate, or refute the claims made by the writer’s interpretation of that source.

The American Psychological Association (APA) has created a set of standards for written communication that regulates the organization of content, writing style, and how sources are credited through in-text citations and references.

**What is APA Style?**

The following entries are provided as examples only. Refer to the Bow Valley College Guide to APA Style on the library’s website for more details.

**A book with one author:**

**A film in DVD format:**

**A document available on the website of a school or institution (no author):**

**A journal article with one author from a library database (with doi):**

**A journal article with four authors from a library database (no doi):**

**An essay or chapter in a book with two editors:**

**Entry in an dictionary or encyclopedia from a library database (no author):**

**Newspaper article from an online web page (with author):**

APA style rules depend on what you’re citing (the format of the source) and where you’re citing (the location in your assignment), which determines what details are required.

In general, in-text citations always include:
- author(s)
- date of publication (or “n.d.” if unavailable)
- page number

References will have several of the following details:
- Title of the work
- Title of the publication (if the work is an article)
- Date (or "n.d." if unavailable)
- Author(s)
- Publishing entity (company or organization)
- Volume number
- Issue number
- URL address of the publication’s website
- Digital object identifier