

# WRITING GUIDE: Summarize Don't Plagiarize

Summarizing is another useful tool for essay writing. Summaries highlight the key ideas in the original article rather than rephrasing the article in your own words.

## Four Simple Steps to Summarizing

1. Identify the author & source
2. List the main idea or ideas from the paragraph or article that you are summarizing
3. Rewrite the ideas into your own words
4. **Don't forget to cite!**

### Sample Original Text:

As a general rule, editors and publishers will acknowledge plagiarism in their publications and publish an apology when plagiarism has been proven. Inevitably, the plagiarist is identified in the published apology.

But the matter, sadly, does not always end there. Suspicion is sometimes directed at graduate qualifications awarded to plagiarists. Plagiarised publications will certainly not be accepted by tenure committees. Even the present job held by an identified plagiarist may be threatened. Furthermore, once a plagiarist's activity has been advertised, editors and publishers everywhere will be very reluctant to consider any future manuscripts an identified plagiarist might wish to publish.

Avoid plagiarism like the plague. Do not be tempted to plagiarise the works of others. It is simply not worth it, for plagiarists will certainly publish and perish (Smith 777-78).

### Preparing the Summary:

1. Author: James P. Smith, Journal of Advanced Nursing
2. Key ideas:
  - Editors and publishers will acknowledge plagiarism in their publications and publish an apology when plagiarism has been proven; the plagiarist is usually identified too.
  - The matter does not always end there: Plagiarism follows the person who has plagiarised and it may adversely affect that person's career by preventing promotion or further publications.
  - Advice: Avoid plagiarism like the plague
3. Rewrite the Ideas in your own words:

James P. Smith, in a *Journal of Advanced Nursing* editorial, argues that the cost to someone's career ultimately makes plagiarism not worth the risk. Even after a formal public apology, a known plagiarist will find it difficult to get papers published, qualify for tenured positions at academic institutions, and may even find their current job in jeopardy. He advises, no matter how tempting it may be, avoid plagiarizing (Smith 777-78).

#### Work Cited

Smith, James P. "Plagiarists Publish and Perish." *Journal of Advanced Nursing* 30.4 (1999): 777-778. *Academic Search Premier*. Web. 13 Feb. 2013.

4. **Remember to cite:** Summaries require citations.
  - For information about citing your sources, see our citation style guides links on our '[Academic Writing Styles](#)' webpage.

For additional help, please make an appointment with a Writing & Learning Centre writing instructor at: <https://alexander.mywconline.com/>