

Citing and Summarizing an Empirical Article (and a reminder about plagiarism)


This page of the module provides information and useful links in citing your sources and summarizing an empirical article from a scholarly journal. And, for good measure, we remind students to avoid the temptations of plagiarism.

APA Citation Style

After finding a source upon which to base your writing project, you will need to cite it properly both within the text and references. Luckily, the UCF Library has a great website that instructs students on the citation style typically used by criminal justice students - APA. APA is short-hand for the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association. The home page for the UCF Library's information on APA citation style is <http://guides.ucf.edu/APA> (<http://guides.ucf.edu/APA>).

Summarizing an Empirical Article

An article summary is a short, focused description of one scholarly article. For empirical articles, the summary identifies the purpose of the study and/or research questions, methods, and findings. The study's limitations should also be noted.

To assist you in summarizing an empirical, scholarly article, use this [Article Summary Outline](https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342762/files/76183123/download?wrap=1) (<https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342762/files/76183123/download?wrap=1>)  (<https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342762/files/76183123/download?wrap=1>) Word document. This document provides students with an outline for citing, summarizing, and critiquing the limitations of a single scholarly empirical article. If your project requires a literature review, these paraphrased summaries can be compiled to write a synthesized review of the literature for your reader.

If you would like to read more about summarizing a research article, read this description of [How to Summarize a Research Article by UConn.edu](http://writingcenter.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/593/2014/06/How_to_Summarize_a_Research_Article1.pdf) ([http://writingcenter.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/593/2014/06/How to Summarize a Research Article1.pdf](http://writingcenter.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/593/2014/06/How_to_Summarize_a_Research_Article1.pdf)).

Academic Integrity & Plagiarism: A Reminder

Plagiarism is everyone's business. Students who earn their degrees honestly by engaging in the scholarly work that develops the skills and knowledge the UCF degree symbolizes are affected by their peers' plagiarism and cheating. Such cheating and plagiarism is unfair to those who work to earn their grades and degrees honestly, and is contrary to the values expressed in the UCF Creed.

Whenever you submit work for academic credit, your instructor should be able to trust that it is the result of your own scholarly and creative efforts. In most cases it is appropriate to use others' work to *support* your academic work. In fact, the ability to use others' ideas, expressions, arguments, images, or data to support your work is an important aspect of academic research.

However, whenever you use another's work to support your own, you must give a full citation that credits the original source. Not giving credit to the original author creates the false impression that work you present for academic credit represents the results of your efforts to master the skills and knowledge that is the purpose of the academic exercise.

You must clearly identify which parts of your work are derived from each source, using in-text citations, footnotes or endnotes. Ending with a list of "works consulted" is not sufficient.

Furthermore, a significant portion of your work must be the result of your own scholarly efforts. A succession of quotations with a few of your own comments to string them together is unlikely to be considered acceptable scholarship.

UCF's Golden rule defines plagiarism as the following: "whereby another's work is used or appropriated without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own."

Thus you commit plagiarism whenever you use in your academic work any argument, image, expression or other element of another's work that is not common knowledge and is not clearly credited to its original author.

Common knowledge is difficult to define precisely. Consider as a rough guideline that you do not necessarily need citations for facts that anyone could reasonably be expected to know. If in doubt, err on the side of being helpful to your reader, though. If it is possible that a classmate who reads your paper finds a statement of yours to be interesting, surprising or otherwise useful, and the reader is interested in investigating further, give them a citation that directs them to your sources.

Self plagiarism also undermines the academic purpose of the exercise of working on course assignments. You plagiarize yourself if you submit for university credit a piece of work that is the same or substantially similar to work for which you have already gained or intend to gain university credit, at this or any other university. To avoid self plagiarism, you must have prior permission from the relevant instructor(s), and give full attribution to the source (i.e yourself). Any expression you use that is identical to one in the original source must be presented using "quotation marks," and the source should be clearly identified.

Any other aspect of another's work you use that is not a direct quotation should be a paraphrase or summary in your own words. Simply rearranging the wording of sentences or replacing words with synonyms (changing "occasionally" to "sometimes") does not qualify as an adequate paraphrase in your own words. See the following for advice about acceptable paraphrasing <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/619/1/> (<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/619/1/>).

Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. Typical penalties may be either loss of credit for the assignment or a failing grade in the course. Perpetrators may also be required to take an academic integrity seminar. Serious cases can lead to academic probation, suspension, expulsion from the University, or the revocation of a degree.