



How to Cite References and Avoid Plagiarism

NOTE: A link to the student version of this “How To” can be found in the student edition at point of use. It can also be found in the Student Resources menu at the top of the screen.

Proper citing of references is often neglected in high school science classes, especially in the age of the Web. Students often simply print out information and cut and paste bits and pieces together to form a report. Take time to instruct your students on how to give proper credit for scientific work. Help them understand that it is important to give people credit for their work. Your students would probably not like it if someone did not give them credit for work they had done! Furthermore, make sure that students understand that cutting and pasting is a form of plagiarism. You may wish to provide them with specific guidelines about how much verbatim text from a referenced material can be used in a paragraph. Otherwise, students must summarize others' work in their own words.

How to Cite References and Avoid Plagiarism shows students how to document their sources and prevent plagiarism. An example of a reference style is provided, but a different reference style may be used. You may want to work with an English or a Language Arts teacher to develop a common style that can be easily understood by all of your students.