



# AVOIDING PLAGIARISM



## “What is plagiarism?”

**Plagiarism** means using other people’s words or ideas in your assignments without saying where you got them from. This can occur when you are trying to understand new or unfamiliar material or take notes by copying from the original. However, by not acknowledging the source of information in your work, you are suggesting these are your own ideas.



## “What is academic integrity?”

**Academic integrity** is a core university value: staff and students should treat each other honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. This also applies to acknowledging the original authors and creators of all written, visual and online material. Even if you already know the information, it is important to refer to expert sources to support your views. This shows your understanding of key authors and ideas within your subject area.



## “How will anyone know if I have plagiarised?”

Course coordinators may ask you to upload assignments using [Turnitin](#), an online tool for identifying plagiarism. Turnitin compares your work with existing online material and prepares a similarity report, based on the percentage of sources you have used.

For example, this Turnitin report shows that the student has **plagiarised**: 36% of their work includes ideas from other sources that have not been acknowledged:

ORIGINALITY REPORT			
<b>36%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>33%</b>
SIMILARITY INDEX	INTERNET SOURCES	PUBLICATIONS	STUDENT PAPERS
PRIMARY SOURCES			
1	Submitted to Massey University Student Paper	18%	
2	Submitted to GradoGuru Publication	6%	
3	Submitted to Foothill College Student Paper	4%	
4	www.geography.ccsu.edu Internet Source	4%	
5	Submitted to CSU, Chico Student Paper	2%	
6	Submitted to South Birmingham College Student Paper	1%	
7	Submitted to University of College Cork Student Paper	1%	
8	Submitted to CSU, Fullerton Student Paper	1%	
9	nou.edu.ng Internet Source	<1%	

  

**Body**

**Humidity**  
Humidity refers to water vapour in the air. The capacity of air to hold water vapour is primarily a function of temperature. Warmer air has a greater capacity for holding water vapour than cooler air. The temperature at which a body of air becomes saturated is its dew-point temperature. Relative humidity is a ratio of the amount of water vapour that is actually in the air, compared with the maximum water vapour the air could hold at a given temperature. If the air is saturated with all the moisture it can hold for its temperature, the relative humidity is 100%. A further increase of water vapour or a decrease in temperature results in active condensation. Relative humidity varies due to evaporation, condensation or temperature changes. All these affect both the moisture content and the capacity of the air to hold water vapour. It is highest at dawn, when air temperature is lowest and the capacity of air is less, and also lowest in late afternoon, where higher air temperatures increase the capacity of air to hold water vapour.

**Adiabatic Processes**

- Adiabatic Warming and Cooling

In order for precipitation to occur, processes need to take place. Adiabatic processes are the changes in temperature that occur due to variations in the air pressure. When water



**Related resources:**  
Structure of an essay  
Structure of a paragraph

**Te Taiako | Student Learning**  
wgtn.ac.nz/student-learning  
student-learning@vuw.ac.nz  
+64 4 463 5999

On the other, hand, this Turnitin report shows the student's **academic integrity**: 60% of the paper contains material that has been cited correctly from other sources:



## “How do I acknowledge borrowed material in my essay?”

Different subject areas use different **referencing styles** (such as APA, MLA or Chicago). Lecturers will provide guidelines in the course outline. Here, for example, is the same information formatted using different styles:

**APA:** Stroebel, J., & Vavra, J. (2019). House prices, local demand, and retail prices. *Journal of Political Economy*, 127(3), 1391-1436.

**MLA:** Stroebel, Johannes, and Joseph Vavra. "House Prices, Local Demand, and Retail Prices." *Journal of Political Economy*, vol. 127, no.3, 2019, pp. 1391-1436.

**Chicago:** Stroebel, Johannes, and Joseph Vavra. "House prices, local demand, and retail prices." *Journal of Political Economy* 127, no. 3 (2019): 1391-1436.

You acknowledge sources in **two places**:

- 1) abbreviated in the **body of your assignment**:

*either in-text citations* (e.g. **APA, MLA**):

According to research by Stroebel and Vavra (2019), interest rates affect house prices.

*or footnotes* (e.g. **Chicago**): Research indicates that interest rates affect house prices.<sup>1</sup>

- 2) In full, listed alphabetically at the **end of your assignment** (below is in APA style):

Stroebel, J., & Vavra, J. (2019). House prices, local demand, and retail prices. *Journal Political Economy*, 127(3), 1391-1436.

<sup>1</sup> Stroebel and Vavra, 2019.

## Integrating information from your reading into your writing

---

Demonstrate your understanding + acknowledge the source

**Original text:** *The Asian Economy* (C. Zhou, Oxford University Press, 2002, p. 33)

When Singapore gained independence in 1965, it was faced with major pollution problems. The government introduced taxation on motor vehicles and tobacco sales, and enacted anti-littering laws to solve the problem. Because of the cleaner environment resulting from these policies, many multinational companies have since invested in the country.

### Paraphrase

= *rewrite using your own words to show understanding*

- When it became independent in 1965, Singapore was heavily polluted. To address this problem, the government began taxing owners of motor vehicles and tobacco users, as well as fining people for littering. This legislation resulted in cleaner surroundings that have attracted many international corporations to invest in Singapore (Zhou 2002, p. 33).

### Integrate

= *use borrowed material to support your own views*

- A second, less obvious instance of government's influence on business can be seen in Singapore. **[1]** According to a study on the Asian economy, **[2]** Singapore used to be heavily polluted. However, ever since the country became independent in 1965, a successful government anti-pollution campaign has made the country attractive for offshore investors **[3]** (Zhou, 2002). **[4]** This shows how legislation to improve the environment can also have a positive impact on the business sector.

See how the passage tells readers where the borrowed information begins and ends:

1. Introduce context
2. Present information:
  - either paraphrase overall meaning, using your own words
  - or quote exact words from the original, signalled by “...” + page number(s)
3. Acknowledge source (author, date...)
4. End with your own words, explaining relevance to your argument

## Making the most of your research

---

### Read with a purpose

- Try and find a range of articles: those that support your opinion, as well as opposing views

### Take careful notes

- Record all bibliographic details. Add your own comments
- Use quotation marks to distinguish between your words and the "original text"

### Incorporate the material into your essay, establishing its context and significance

- According to Jackson (1998, 23), “ ... ”
- A recent survey of consumers (Vodafone 2002) indicated that...
- *Use quotes sparingly -- aim to paraphrase as much as possible, in order to display your understanding*

**NB:** Always indicate how the material relates to your own your argument: *(This shows...)*

### Acknowledge the source — in two places

- Within the essay
- At the end, in a list of References