

AVOIDING PLAGIARISM and USING MLA

Plagiarism Definition: *In an instructional setting, plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else's language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source ("Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism").*

Examples of Plagiarism:



- Having someone else write an essay or assignment
- Taking material from another source (website, book, etc) and submitting it as your own
- Copying parts (even a short sentence or phrase) of someone else's essay, website, etc. and putting it in your own report or essay and not giving credit
- Taking ideas, quotations, pictures, graphs, charts, etc. from another source and turning it in as your own creation. You must give credit to the creator!

RULE: Give credit using MLA format to any information that is not your own and/or is not common knowledge.

Common Knowledge: Something everyone knows i.e. gravity means an apple will fall if you drop it. Newton discovered this fact, but now we all know it to be true so the fact is *common knowledge* and you don't have to cite it.

To cite correctly we use MLA format at Millbrook High School. You must create a citation for each website, book, interview, newspaper article, etc. and create a full citation to go at the end of the paper. Include parenthetical citations at the end of sentences including research to reference the works cited page entry.

For example:

The following is a line from a research essay: *When choosing a career, focus on your own interests instead of what someone else thinks (Noland)*. The (Noland) at the end of the sentence is a parenthetical citation to refer readers to the works cited entry which would look like:

Noland, Roni F. "The Best of Times: Your Finest Moments Can Hold the Clues to Your Future Success." Career World Nov.-Dec. 2005: 18-21. Student Resource Center Gold. Gale. Millbrook Media Center, Raleigh, NC. 29 Nov. 2007 <<http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/?db=SRC-1>>.

We use the website NoodleTools to complete correct MLA citations (and to keep notes on sources used). Follow these directions to set up an account in NoodleTools:

- <http://www.noodletools.com>
- Go to "Current Users: Sign In"
- Click on "Create a Personal ID"
- Select "Register"
- Type in the school username – Millbrook - and password – Wildcats
- Fill out all blanks on the next page: personal id, password, and last four digits of your phone number
- Click on "Create a New List"
- Select "MLA Advanced"
- In the "Description" box, type a name for your list related to the paper/project you are working on

For other MLA style guides and tips go to the Millbrook Media Center website – to access go to <http://mhs.wcpss.net> and click on Media Center.

Adapted from: "Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: The WPA Statement on Best Practices." Council of Writing Program Administrators. Jan. 2003.

29 Nov. 2007 <<http://www.wpacouncil.org/node/9>>.