

Research Method

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Titles

- ▶ **Academic Plagiarism**
- ▶ **Presentation Notes**
- ▶ **Writing a Technical Paper**
- ▶ **Subjects for Research**

Academic Plagiarism

- ▶ The Compact Edition of the Oxford English Dictionary (COED):
 - ▶ "The action or practice of *plagiarizing*; the wrongful appropriation or purloining, and publication as one's own, of the ideas, or the expression of ideas (literary, artistic, musical, mechanical, etc.) of another".
- ▶ A purloined idea, design, passage, or work.
- ▶ to *purloin* means:
 - ▶ To make away with, misappropriate, or take dishonestly; to steal, esp. under circumstances which involve a breach of trust; to pilfer, filch;
- ▶ Thomas Mallon's *Stolen Words: Forays into the Origins and Ravages of Plagiarism*:
 - ▶ **Plagiarism** is the deliberate attempt to deceive the reader through the appropriation and representation as one's own the work and words of others. Academic plagiarism occurs when a writer repeatedly uses more than **four words from a printed source without the use of quotation marks and a precise reference to the original source** in a work presented as the author's own research and scholarship. Continuous paraphrasing without serious interaction with another person's views, by way or argument or the addition of new material and insights, is a form of plagiarism in academic work.

Types of plagiarism

- ▶ **Straight plagiarism**
- ▶ **Plagiarism citing the original author but without adequate quotation marks or references**
- ▶ **Simple plagiarism using a footnote**
- ▶ **Complex plagiarism using a footnote**
- ▶ **Plagiarism with hanging quotations**
- ▶ **Paraphrasing as plagiarism**

Example

▶ **Original:**

Hertzog's policies were also seen as an expression of the myth of apartheid. He, and he alone, was represented as holding a realistic racial policy by which was meant one which segregated black from white. "Natives have to learn that they are not equal to whites," *Het Westen* declared. The native must learn to recognize that white technology and industry has raised them from barbarism. Too many people reacted emotionally to the race question and assumed colored people could be given a greater say in the government of South Africa. (Source: Irving Hexham, *The Irony of Apartheid*, Lewiston: Edwin Mellen, 1981, p. 184).

Straight plagiarism

▶ **Plagiarism:**

But General Hertzog recognized the danger and fought for the rights of the Afrikaner. Only the National Party offered a Christian solution to South Africa's racial problems. The politics of the Nationalists, were in the view of the newspaper *Het Westen*, thoroughly Christian. The Afrikaner People were a Christian People, therefore their politics must of necessity be Christian.

▶ **Correct usage:**

Hexham writes "But General Hertzog recognized the danger and stood up for the rights of the Afrikaner. Only the National Party offered a Christian solution to South Africa's racial problems. The politics of the nationalists, were in the view of *Het Westen*, unquestionably Christian. The Afrikaner People were a Christian people, therefore their politics must of necessity be Christian."⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾ Irving Hexham, *The Irony of Apartheid* (Lewiston: Edwin Mellen, 1981), p. 185.

Citing the original author

▶ **Plagiarism:**

Professor Hexham brilliantly observes that Hertzog recognized the danger and stood up for the rights of the Afrikaner. Only the National Party offered a Christian solution to South Africa's racial problems. The politics of the nationalists, were in the view of *Het Westen*, unquestionably Christian. The Afrikaner People were a Christian people, therefore their politics must of necessity be Christian.

- ▶ **Note:** this is an example of plagiarism even though the author acknowledges a debt to "Professor Hexham," because appropriate quotation marks are not used nor are we given a page reference to the source. Note also the use of the word "brilliant." In practice, plagiarists often use exaggerated descriptions of someone's work before plagiarizing it. This is probably because we are all flattered when someone says we are "brilliant." Therefore we are unlikely to look to closely at a work or complain about the misuse of our own work by someone who clearly likes us. Therefore, such terms are often triggers that warn us we are about to encounter plagiarism.

Correct usage:

Professor Hexham observes that "Hertzog recognized the danger and stood up for the rights of the Afrikaner. Only the National Party offered a Christian solution to South Africa's racial problems. The politics of the nationalists, were in the view of *Het Westen*, unquestionably Christian. The Afrikaner People were a Christian people, therefore their politics must of necessity be Christian" ⁽¹⁾

Simple plagiarism using a footnote

▶ **Plagiarism:**

In his insightful book *The Irony of Apartheid* Dr. Hexham observes that Dr. Hertzog recognized the danger and stood up against the British for the rights of the Afrikaner. Only the *Nationale Partie* offered a real solution to South Africa's racial problems. The politics of Afrikaner Nationalists, were in the view of *Het Westen*, entirely Christian. The Afrikaner Volk were a Christian People, therefore their politics must of necessity be Christian.¹

¹Irving Hexham, *The Irony of Apartheid*, chapter 7

- ▶ **Note:** the flattering use of "insightful", and minor changes to the text such as the substitution of "Dr" for "General", and "Volk" for "People." Note also that quotations marks are still not used even though they are required, nor are we given an exact page number.

▶ **Correct usage:**

In his book *The Irony of Apartheid* Dr. Hexham observes that "General Hertzog recognized the danger and stood up against the British for the rights of the Afrikaner. Only the National Party offered a real solution to South Africa's racial problems. The politics of the Nationalists, were in the view of *Het Westen*, entirely Christian. The Afrikaner People were a Christian People, therefore their politics must of necessity be Christian."⁽¹⁾

¹Irving Hexham, *The Irony of Apartheid* (Lewiston: Edwin Mellen, 1981), p. 185.

Complex plagiarism using a footnote

▶ **Plagiarism:**

Such views articulated in the student magazines, also received clear, though less detailed treatment in *The Westerner* which reminded Afrikaners that they were a Calvinist Volk with a duty to retain their nationalism.¹ In the view of this newspaper, ministers of the Dutch Reformed Church like Herman Bosman, General Botha=s friend, were "mistaken in arguing, like Dr. Andrew Murray for the separation of religion and politics" even though he was their mentor.²

- ▶ ¹Irving Hexham, *The Irony of Apartheid* (Lewiston: Edwin Mellen, 1981), 182.
² *The Westerner*, 4/12/1912.

Note: in the last example *Het Westen* becomes "The Westerner" giving the impression that the author is translating from the Afrikaans original. Note also the way the order of certain short phrases, like "General Botha=s friend," are changed around. This type of alteration to the text disguises the extent of the plagiarism making it less easy to spot. Finally, although part of the quotation is placed in quotation marks it is done in such a way that the reader is led to believe that the writer is directly quoting from the newspaper and not from *The Irony of Apartheid*.

Correct usage:

Hexham writes "Such views articulated in the student magazines, also received clear, though less detailed treatment in *Het Westen*. Afrikaners were reminded that they were a Calvinist People with a duty to retain their nationalism."¹ Later he adds that "In the view of *Het Westen*, ministers of the Dutch Reformed Church like General Botha=s friend Herman Bosman were mistaken in arguing, like their leader Andrew Murray, for separation of religion and politics."²

¹Irving Hexham, *The Irony of Apartheid* (Lewiston: Edwin Mellen, 1981), p. 182

²*ibid.*, p. 187.

Plagiarism with hanging quotations

▶ **Plagiarism:**

According to Hexham "Hertzog's policies were also seen as an expression of the myth of apartheid."¹ He, and he alone, was represented as holding a realistic racial policy by which was meant one which segregated black from white. The Afrikaans newspaper, *Het Westen* declared "Natives have to learn that they are unequal to whites."² Hexham says this meant that "the native must learn to recognize that white technology and industry has raised them from barbarism." Clearly, in view of *Het Westen* too many individuals reacted emotionally to the race question. Only radicals assumed Colored People could be given a greater say in the Government of South Africa.³

▶ ¹Irving Hexham, *The Irony of Apartheid* (Lewiston: Edwin Mellen, 1981), p. 184.

²*Het Westen*, 7/27/1906.

³Irving Hexham, *The Irony of Apartheid* (Lewiston: Edwin Mellen, 1981), p. 184.

▶ **Note:** the plagiarized passages are sandwiched in between genuine quotations while yet again the reader is led to believe that the author is citing directly from *Het Westen* when, in fact they are still citing *The Irony of Apartheid*.

▶ **Correct usage:**

According to Hexham "Hertzog's policies were also seen as an expression of the myth of apartheid. He, and he alone, was represented as holding a realistic racial policy by which was meant one which segregated black from white."¹The Afrikaans newspaper, *Het Westen*, declared "Natives have to learn that they are not equal to whites."²Hexham says this meant that "the native must learn to recognize that white technology and industry has raised them from barbarism."³ Clearly, in view of *Het Westen*, "Too many people reacted emotionally to the race question and assumed colored people could be given a greater say in the government of South Africa."⁴

▶ ¹ Irving Hexham, *The Irony of Apartheid* (Lewiston: Edwin Mellen), 1981, p. 184.

² *Het Westen* 7/27/1906, cited in Irving Hexham, *The Irony of Apartheid* (Lewiston: Edwin Mellen, 1981), p. 184.

³Irving Hexham, *The Irony of Apartheid* (Lewiston: Edwin Mellen, 1981), p. 184.

⁴*Het Westen* cited in Irving Hexham, *The Irony of Apartheid* (Lewiston: Edwin Mellen, 1981), p. 184.

Paraphrasing as plagiarism

▶ **Illegitimate paraphrase:**

Standing up for the Afrikaner's rights because of the dangers he saw looming, Hertzog argued that a Christian solution to South Africa's racial problems was to be found in the policies of the National Party. Nationalist politics were according to *Het Westen* undoubtedly Christian and he Afrikaner People must support them because they were a Christian People. Views like these were expressed by students in their magazine ...

▶ **Appropriate paraphrasing:**

Hexham argues that standing up for the Afrikaner's rights because of the dangers he saw looming, Hertzog argued that a Christian solution to South Africa's racial problems was to be found in the policies of the National Party. Nationalist politics were according to *Het Westen* undoubtedly Christian and he Afrikaner People must support them because they were a Christian People.⁽¹⁾ He also observes that Views like these were expressed by students in their magazine.⁽²⁾ The problem with Hexham's argument is that he pays far too much attention to the views of Hertzog and the students who supported Hertzog's views. He also fails to explain exactly what Hertzog meant by "Christian" thus overlooking the fact that Hertzog was actually an agnostic inspired by Bismark's son-in-law Count Keyserling. Consequently he fails ...

▶ ⁽¹⁾ Irving Hexham, *The Irony of Apartheid* (Lewiston: Edwin Mellen, 1981), p. 185.

⁽²⁾ Irving Hexham, *The Irony of Apartheid* (Lewiston: Edwin Mellen, 1981), 182.

Presentation Notes

- ▶ Search for Power point templates
- ▶ Delete Explanation
- ▶ Use Figures, Charts, Head lines
- ▶ Use Template with simple pages
- ▶ Exercise oral presentation several times
- ▶ Use proper pages according to time of presentation about 1-2 page(s) for each minutes.
- ▶ Make Slides by yourself

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- ▶ Academic Plagiarism
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- ▶ Writing a Technical Paper
- ▶ Subjects for Research

Presentation

- ▶ 32% of people said they rather to die than speak in public!
- ▶ 11% of receiving information by Hearing and 73% by visually
- ▶ The *medium* should never become the *message*.

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Writing a Technical Paper

- ▶ Some people believe that writing papers, giving talks, and similar “marketing” activities are not part of research, but an adjunct to it or even an undesirable distraction
- ▶ The purpose of research is to increase the store of human knowledge, and so even the very best work is useless if you cannot effectively communicate it to the rest of the world.

Organization

- ▶ A paper should communicate the main ideas of your research (such as the techniques and results) early and clearly. Then, the body of the paper can expand on these points; a reader who understands the structure and big ideas can better appreciate the details. This advice also applies at the level of sections and paragraphs. Do not start with a mass of details, hoping that the reader will somehow figure out which of those are relevant to your main point, and only later tell the reader what the main point was.
- ▶ For each section of the paper, consider writing a mini-introduction that says what its organization is, what is in each part, and how the parts relate to one another.
- ▶ For the whole paper, this is probably a paragraph. For a section or sub-section, it can be as short as a sentence. This may feel redundant to you (the author), but readers haven't spent as much time with the paper's structure as you have, so they will truly appreciate these signposts that help them orient themselves within your text.

Writing style

- ▶ Passive voice has no place in technical writing. It obscures who the actor was, what caused it, and when it happened. Use active voice and simple, clear, direct phrasing.
- ▶ First person is rarely appropriate in technical writing. First person should never be used to describe the operation of a program or system. It is only appropriate when discussing something that the author of the paper did manually. (And recall that your paper should not be couched as a narrative.) It is confusing to use “we” to mean “the author and the reader” or “the paper” (“In this section, we ...”) or even “the system being described” (“we compute a graph” makes it sound like the authors did it by hand). As a related point, do not anthropomorphize computers: they hate it. Anthropomorphism, such as “the program thinks that ...”, is unclear and vague.
- ▶ Be brief. Make every word count. If a word does not support your point, cut it out, because excess verbiage and fluff only make it harder for the reader to appreciate your message.
- ▶ Use shorter and more direct phrases wherever possible. Avoid puffery, self-congratulation, and value judgments: give the facts and let the reader judge.
- ▶ Do not use words like “obviously” or “clearly”, as in “Obviously, this Taylor series sums to pi.”
 - ▶ If the point is really obvious, then you are just wasting words by pointing it out.
 - ▶ If the point is not obvious (readers won't be intimately familiar with the subject matter the way the author is), then you are offending readers by insulting their intelligence, and demonstrating your own inability to communicate the intuition.

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Subjects for Research

- ▶ Internet search
- ▶ Other students and Researchers works