

Avoiding Plagiarism

- Always credit your sources, whether you take an idea from somewhere and paraphrase/summarise, or whether you directly quote that idea/language
- If you quote a source word for word you must use quotation marks. You cannot change anything inside the quotation marks. You must use a parenthetical note.
- Alternatively, you can paraphrase a source without using quotation marks. It must be 100% paraphrase. Changing one word does not suffice. Borrowing someone's language/expression without quotation marks is still plagiarism. You still need to acknowledge and use a parenthetical note.

Look at the following source

Because women's wages often continue to reflect the fiction that men earn the family wage, single mothers rarely earn enough to support themselves and their children adequately. And because work is still organized around the assumption that mothers stay home with children, even though few mothers can afford to do so, child-care facilities are woefully inadequate.

May, Elaine. *Myths and Realities of the American Family*. New York: Norton, 1988. Print. (taken from page 589)

Version A

Since women's wages often continue to reflect the mistaken notion that men are the main wage earners in the family, single mothers rarely make enough to support themselves and their children well. Also, because work is still based on the assumption that mothers stay home with children, facilities for child-care remain woefully inadequate in the United States.

Why is this an example of plagiarism?

Version B

As Elaine May points out, "women's wages often continue to reflect the fiction that men earn the family wage" (589). Thus many single mothers cannot support themselves and their children adequately. Furthermore, since work is based on the assumption that mothers stay at home with children, facilities for day care in this country remain "woefully inadequate" (589)

Why is this an example of plagiarism?

Version C

By and large, our economy still operates on the mistaken notion that men are still the main breadwinners in the family. Thus, women continue to earn lower wages than men. This means, in effect, that many single mothers cannot earn a decent living. Furthermore, adequate day care is not available in the United States because of the mistaken notion that mothers remain at home with their children.

Why is this an example of plagiarism?

Version C

Women still earn less than men – so much so that many single parent mothers and their children live near the poverty line. Elaine May argues that this situation stems from "the fiction that men earn the family wage" (589). May further suggests that the American workplace still operates on the assumption that mothers with children stay at home to care for them (589). This assumption, in my opinion, does not have the force it once did....

Why is this a good example of handling sources?