

Some thoughts for students on creating authentic work

Respect your own ideas and build on them

Your own thinking should be the foundation for your writing

Read for understanding

If you understand what you have read, you will be able to restate main ideas, ask questions, agree or disagree, form an opinion. Practice paraphrasing.

Practice active note taking

- Identify main ideas, key words
- Use phrases not full sentence
- Use active verbs as you record points of information
- Learn the Cornell system of note taking. It encourages reflection (your questions and thoughts in the left hand column) and comprehension (your summary at bottom of page)
- Organize your notes in visual ways (highlighting, color coding)
- Document your sources at the time you are taking notes

Before you write

- Understand the requirements of the assignment
- Think of original ways to present information or of treating the subject at hand, if appropriate
- Write without your notes to see where your thinking is taking you
- Develop an arguable question to guide the direction of your paper. (*Discuss with your teacher.*)
- Construct a framework for your writing: an outline or thinking map,

Select quotations carefully

- If the words are memorable
- If you are using specialized terminology
- If you are referring to a literary passage
- If the quotation provides a critical example that advances your argument substantially (but consider paraphrasing instead).
- Keep the quotations brief
- Remember, your own thinking should be the foundation for your writing

What to document

- Words you quote directly from any source
- Paraphrases of any source
- Ideas borrowed from others (such as the points of an argument, or the thoughts of a critic about a piece of literature)
- Charts, diagrams, illustrations taken from another's work

How to use your quotations

- Integrate short quotations into the text of your essay using quotation marks and in-text citation format.
- Introduce longer quotations with a colon (no quotation marks). Double-space and indent the block of text and use in-text citation format.

How to document

- Credit your source in the body of your essay ("In his essay..." or "According to")
- Use in-text citation format, footnotes, or endnotes as directed by your teacher
- Create a bibliography or works cited page as directed by your teacher

Plagiarism

Whether deliberate or not, plagiarism may call your work into question. In order to avoid plagiarism, it is important to give your sources credit by documenting your sources.

And, again, respect your own ideas and build on them

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Bibliography:

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