

Plagiarism Avoidance Primer

Plagiarism is a serious problem in academic writing. It can result from a deliberate attempt to avoid doing the hard work of putting words together yourself or from an inadvertent use of another's words, either due to careless notetaking or an eloquent phrase sticking in your head. Avoiding plagiarism requires careful use of sources and proper citation practices.

Here is how to use a source correctly.

Source:

“Though no law or code of ethics required doctors to ask permission before taking tissue from a living patient, the law made it very clear that performing an autopsy or removing tissue from the dead without permission was illegal.” (Skloot 2010, p. 89)

You can rephrase this passage and still cite the source of information:

The law did require permission (usually from a person's family) for an autopsy or tissue removal from a dead person, although ironically not for removal of tissue from a live person. (Skloot 2010, p. 89)

You can quote part or most of the passage:

As Skloot made clear in her book, “performing an autopsy or removing tissue from the dead without permission was illegal.” (Skloot 2010, p. 89)

There is “no law or code of ethics that required doctors to ask permission before taking tissue from a living patient,” but “the law made it very clear that performing an autopsy or removing tissue from the dead without permission was illegal.” (Skloot 2010, p. 89)

Or you can quote it in its entirety as above.

Any other use is plagiarism including the following:

Though no law or code of ethics required doctors to ask permission before taking tissue from a living patient, the law made it very clear that performing an autopsy or removing tissue from the dead without permission was illegal. (Skloot 2010 p. 89) *Note the lack of quotes, which indicates phrases written by Skloot. The citation does not remove the plagiarism.*

There is no law or code of ethics that required doctors to ask permission before taking tissue from a living patient, but the law made it very clear that performing an autopsy or removing tissue from the dead without permission was illegal. (Skloot 2010, p. 89) *This is still too close to the original wording to not have the words drawn from the source in quotes.*