

# Plagiarism and you!

How to avoid plagiarism when writing papers

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BIO 181/183

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Word for word plagiarism

## Original passage

*Majungatholus atopus* inhabited the plains of northwestern Madagascar during the Late Cretaceous. Its bones and teeth are found throughout the Maevarano Formation (Campanian–Maastrichtian), but are most abundant within the channel-belt deposits of the Anembalemb.

## Word for word plagiarism

(wrong)!

*Majungatholus atopus* is a dinosaur that can be found in Madagascar. Its bones and teeth are found throughout the Maevarano Formation (Campanian–Maastrichtian), but are most abundant within the channel-belt deposits of the Anembalemb.

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## Word for word plagiarism (with citation)

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*Majungatholus atopus* is a dinosaur that can be found in Madagascar. Its bones and teeth are found throughout the Maevarano Formation (Campanian–Maastrichtian), but are most abundant within the channel-belt deposits of the Anembalemb (Rogers et al, 2003).

## Original passage

*Majungatholus atopus* inhabited the plains of northwestern Madagascar during the Late Cretaceous. Its bones and teeth are found throughout the Maevarano Formation (Campanian–Maastrichtian), but are most abundant within the channel-belt deposits of the Anembalemb.

## Using quotations

*Majungatholus atopus* is a dinosaur that can be found in Madagascar. Scientists have found deposits containing *Majungatholus* in the Maevarano Formation, “**But are most abundant within the channel-belt deposits of the Anembalemb**” (Rogers et al, 2003).



# When including text you did not write

- **DO:**

- Cite the source
- Put the text in quotations
- Try to only quote one or two sentences at a time

- **DON'T:**

- Use more than 2-3 sentences you did not write, even in quotations.
- Copy-paste from ANY document (websites, academic papers, material from courses) without quoting.



# Paraphrasing plagiarism

## Original passage

*Majungatholus atopus* inhabited the plains of northwestern Madagascar during the Late Cretaceous. Its bones and teeth are found throughout the Maevarano Formation (Campanian–Maastrichtian), but are most abundant within the channel-belt deposits of the Anembalemb.

## Paraphrasing plagiarism

(wrong)!

*Majungatholus atopus* once inhabited the plains near northwestern Madagascar during the Late Cretaceous. Its bones and teeth can be found throughout the Maevarano Formation (Campanian–Maastrichtian), but many can also be found within the channel-belt deposits of the Anembalemb.



## Original passage

*Majungatholus atopus* inhabited the plains of northwestern Madagascar during the Late Cretaceous. Its bones and teeth are found throughout the Maevarano Formation (Campanian–Maastrichtian), but are most abundant within the channel-belt deposits of the Anembalemb.

## Paraphrasing plagiarism (with citation)

(wrong)!

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## Original passage

*Majungatholus atopus* inhabited the plains of northwestern Madagascar during the Late Cretaceous. Its bones and teeth are found throughout the Maevarano Formation (Campanian–Maastrichtian), but are most abundant within the channel-belt deposits of the Anembalemb.

## Correct paraphrasing

One place where you can find the dinosaur *Majungatholus atopus* is in Madagascar. The highest number of these fossils can be found in the Anembalemb channel-belt deposits, but they have also been found in the Maevarano Formation (Rogers et al, 2003).



## When paraphrasing...

- **DO:**

- Cite the source
- Use your own words.

- **DON'T:**

- Change a word here and there and use the rest.
- “Frankenstein” sentences together using parts of others.
- Change the tense and nothing else.

# In conclusion

- **DO:**
  - Always cite your source (even the lab manual)!
  - Use short quotations
  - Fully rewrite material from your sources
  - Ask questions if you are unsure
- **DON'T:**
  - Quote large chunks of text
  - Copy-paste
  - Only change a few words out of an entire sentence

If I can type your sentence into google and come up with the site you used, you're doing something wrong!

If I can open the lab manual and find the exact sentence you were looking at when you were writing, you're doing something wrong!



A few more common lab report problems

# Methods section

**CORRECT:** First, the tooth was ground to a fine powder. Then, I added 0.6 M HCl to approximately 1 gram of the tooth powder. Following this, the sample was agitated for 24 hours. After this, the 0.6 M HCl was collected from the sample for analysis.

**INCORRECT:** First, **you** grind up the tooth to a fine powder. Then, **you** add 0.6 M HCl to 1 gram of the tooth powder. After that, **you** agitate the sample for 24 hours. Next, **you** collect the HCl for later analysis.



In text citations.. Use them!