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*Writing and Citing*

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Department of Community Health  
Sciences

Spring 2007



# *Presentation Outline*

## I. Writing in Public Health

- What is it?
- Why?
- Who are we writing for?

## II. Why is Citation so important?

## III. Plagiarism

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# *Welcome*

- Intended to help you understand the requirement of writing in graduate school
- Questions or problems – seek help early!
- Copy of this presentation and resources are available at the CHS front desk

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# *Classroom Perspective on Plagiarism*



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## *I. Writing in Public Health*



*What is different from earlier writing I have done?*

- You are not just you, presenting your personal views or thoughts, but you are representing a profession.

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# *What are you writing in public health?*

- Review Papers
- Grants
- Memos
- Letters
- Briefing documents
- Press releases
- Programs
- Reports
- Education pamphlets
- Marketing brochures
- News letter articles
- Posters
- Lecturers
- Presentations
- Scientific papers

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# *Who are you writing for in public health?*

- The public
- Stakeholders/Colleagues
- Legislators
- Journalists
- Institutional Review Boards
- Foundations
- Etc.

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## *How to write in public health?*

- Analyze current issues/trends in public health
- Assess scientific, clinical, economic, political, and ethical/legal aspects of each issue/trend
- Describe, debate, and discuss conceptual, methodological, and policy issues/trends in public health
- Present those views written in cogent, concise, and crisp language

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*“Research is to see what everybody else has seen, and to think what nobody else has thought”*

*Albert Szent-Gyorgyi*

*1932 Nobel Prize winner in Medicine*

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*II Why is Citation so important?*



## *Citation*

1. Plagiarism
2. Supports argument
3. Makes research replicable

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*To write using 3 sources is plagiarism, but with 300 sources it is science!*

*Dagfinn Magnus during his wife's PhD work*

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## *What is evidence based public health?*

- Guidelines for programs and policies are developed based on research findings
- Quality and quantity of research effect the reliability of recommendations

SO, your case is **stronger**, your paper is **better** when you cite lots of quality sources

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# *Paper Development*

- Identify an issue you are interested in
- Complete a literature review
- Decide **based on the evidence** your argument/recommendation

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## *What do we usually do?*

- Decide "I think we should encourage all women to complete monthly breast exams."
- Look for articles that support our argument
- Write a paper arguing for an idea we already believed before we read any articles

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### *III. Plagiarism*





# Plagiarize

- “to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own : use (another's production) without crediting the source”
  - “to commit literary theft : present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source”
- Merriam Webster. (2006). *Merriam Webster's Online*. Retrieved August 24, 2006, from <http://m-w.com/dictionary/Plagiarism>.

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## *What is plagiarism?*

- Plagiarism is using another person's writing as your own. It is a serious breach of ethics and the SPHTM Honor Code.

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## *Good to Know*

- Most of our professors use web-based programs to scan papers for plagiarism
- If you suspect a group member of plagiarism, school honor code requires you to report it the course instructor

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# *How to avoid plagiarism*

- Cite properly
- Use multiple sources to prepare your paper
- Read first , take notes

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# *Rules for Avoiding Plagiarism*

## (When to cite a source)

### Always cite:

- An original idea derived from a source (quoted or paraphrased)
- Your summary of original ideas by a source
- Factual information - not common knowledge
- Any exact wording copied from a source

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# *Rules for Avoiding Plagiarism*

(Guidelines for using outside sources)

Also:

- Let the reader know when you begin borrowing from a source by introducing the quotation or paraphrase with the name of an authority
  - (e.g., According to Boris, the moon is made of cheese.).
- Cite in the text: The moon is made of cheese (Boris, 2001).
- Provide a bibliographic entry for every source cited in the paper.

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## *Original Source Material*

“The health of mothers during pregnancy depends on their health throughout all of life before their first pregnancy, and that will vary according to their social and family circumstances, which in turn will affect not only their diet, smoking, exercise, and alcohol consumption, but also their mental well-being and coping skills.”

Wadsworth, 1999 (pp. 46-47)



## Reference

Wadsworth, M. (1999). Early Life. In Marmot, M. and Wilkinson, R. G. (Eds.). Social Determinants of Health (pp. 44-63). Oxford, UK: Oxford.

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## *Example of Plagiarism*

I believe that the health of mothers during pregnancy depends on their health throughout all of life before their first pregnancy.

Problem: direct quote, no quotation marks or references.

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## *Example of Plagiarism*

The health of mothers during pregnancy depends on their health before pregnancy. Their health will vary depending on social and family circumstances. These circumstances affect not only women's diet, smoking, exercise, and alcohol consumption, but also their mental well-being and coping skills.

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## *Example of Plagiarism*

Pregnant women's health will depend, in part, on their overall health before pregnancy. The physical and social environment in which they have lived their lives influence health-related behaviors (e.g., smoking, drinking) and these affect health. Mental health is also affected by the environment and has an impact on health during pregnancy.

Problem: thought entirely borrowed, not referenced.

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## *Example of Plagiarism*

According to Wadsworth, the health of mothers during pregnancy depends on their health throughout all of life before their first pregnancy, and that will vary according to their social and family circumstances, which in turn will affect not only their diet, smoking, exercise, and alcohol consumption, but also their mental well-being and coping skills

Problem: direct quote, no quotation marks. Also needs reference **WITH PAGE NUMBER**.

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# *Using Quotations*

- Use quotation marks
- Indent long quotations
- Use quotations to support what you say, not to present thesis and main points
- Provide in-text citations
- In-text citation goes outside the final quotation mark but inside the period.

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# *Correct Citations*

- According to Wadsworth, “the health of mothers during pregnancy depends on their health throughout all of life” (Wadsworth, 1999. p. 49). – Direct quote
- Wadsworth points out that events that take place all the way through a woman’s life prior to pregnancy have an impact on her diet and substance use, and through these, on her health during pregnancy (Wadsworth, 1999). – Paraphrase
- Wadsworth, in reviewing the determinants of health during pregnancy, pointed out the importance of the entire life course (Wadsworth, 1999). - Summary

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## *Citation for Secondary Source*

- John and Jake's study (as cited in Boris, Tortu & Magnus, 1997)
- In general, avoid secondary sources – seek the primary source

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# APA Style

## Text:

Infants of low birth weight are at greater risk of mortality and developmental delay (Boris, Tortu, & Magnus, 1997; Guillot, 1992).

## References

Boris N.B., Tortu S., Magnus J. (1997). The relationship between birth weight and early infant development. *Infant Mental Health Journal* 23:152-159.

Guillot G. (1992). Determinants of infant mortality. *Journal of Pediatrics* 138:717-723

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## *AMA Style*

### Text:

Infants of low birth weight are at greater risk of mortality<sup>1</sup> and developmental delay<sup>2</sup>.

### References

1. Boris NB, Tortu S, Magnus J. The relationship between birth weight and early infant development. *Infant Mental Hlt J.* 1997; 23:152-159.
2. Guillot G. Determinants of infant mortality. *J Pediatrics.* 1992; 138:717-723.



# *Common Problems*

- Research and writing style
- Common knowledge
- In class material
- Group Work

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