

Plagiarism:

Some Examples of Correct and Incorrect Citation of Original Source Material

Original quote:

“The character and mentality of the keepers may be of more importance in understanding prisons than the character and mentality of the kept.”

– Jessica Mitford, *Kind and Usual Punishment*

Incorrectly Sourced and/or Cited Material = Plagiarism

The blue underlined text below is taken directly from the above original quote and inserted into a sentence without the proper punctuation or citation information that would indicate to readers that the language comes from somewhere else. A **direct quote** is exact language imported from another source like a book or a website; a **paraphrase** is a summary rephrasing of ideas or speech that is unique to someone else. Both direct quotes *and* paraphrases **MUST** be properly cited to avoid the appearance of plagiarism.

1. A full direct quote of the above text **without** any quotation marks **or** source citation:

The character and mentality of the keepers may be of more importance in understanding prisons than the character and mentality of the kept.

2. A partial direct quote **without** quotation marks **or** attribution:

According to one critic of the penal system, the psychology of the kept may say less about prisons than the psychology of the keepers.

3. Partial direct quote with quotation marks but still **without** attribution:

The character and mentality of “the keepers” may be of more importance in understanding prisons than the character and mentality of “the kept.”

4. Mixed paraphrase and direct quote with proper attribution but **without** quotation marks:

According to one critic of the penal system, the psychology of the kept may say less about prisons than the psychology of the keepers (Mitford 9).

5. Sentence structure rearranged, but still a direct quote **without** quotation marks **or** attribution:

In understanding prisons, we should know more about the character and mentality of the keepers than of the kept.

Properly Sourced and Cited Material = Correct Citation

The sentences below correctly integrate quoted material into them by using quotation marks properly and by including the author’s last name and the page number the original language came from.

A **direct quote** is exact language imported from another source like a book or a website; a **paraphrase** is a summary rephrasing of ideas or speech that is unique to someone else. Both direct quotes *and* paraphrases **MUST** be properly cited to avoid the appearance of plagiarism.

1. Direct quote with **quotation marks** and **proper author and page citation**:

According to one critic of the penal system, “The character and mentality of the keepers may be of more importance in understanding prisons than the character and mentality of the kept” (Mitford 9).

2. Paraphrases with **proper author and page citation**:

Mitford holds that we may be able to learn more about prisons from the psychology of the prison officials than from that of the prisoners (9).

We may understand prisons better if we focus on the personalities and attitudes of the prison workers rather than those of the inmates (Mitford 9).