Plagiarism

Plagiarism: the theft of someone else’s words, works, or ideas
– turning in someone else’s paper as your own
– using another person’s data or ideas without acknowledgment
– copying an author’s exact words without quotation marks and acknowledgment of original author
– using wording that is very similar to that of the original source, but passing it off as yours even while acknowledging the source

From V. E. McMillan, Writing Papers in the Biological Sciences, 3rd ed.

Original Passage:
A very virulent isolate of Alternaria mali, the incitant of apple blotch, was found to produce two major host-specific toxins (HSTs) and five minor ones in liquid culture. The minor toxins were less active than the major ones, but were still specifically toxic to the plants which are susceptible to the pathogen (Kohmoto et al. 1976).

Plagiarized Version:
Kohmoto et al. (1976) found that a very virulent isolate of Alternaria mali, the incitant of apple blotch disease, produced two major host-specific toxins, as well as five minor ones in liquid culture. Although the minor toxins were less active than the major ones, they were still specifically toxic to the susceptible plants.

Acceptable Version:
Alternaria mali causes apple blotch disease. Kohmoto et al. (1976) found a form of A. mali that produced seven toxins in liquid culture. All seven toxins were specific for susceptible plants, but two of the toxins were more harmful than the other five.

Book Reviews

- Book Report
  - a summary of a book to demonstrate that you read it
- Book Review
  - an essay in which you describe a book, identify its purpose/key goals, and provide a critical analysis of the success in meeting that purpose
Book Reviews

The following is a compilation of materials prepared by Dr. Barbara Gastel for the Plant Science Bulletin and writing centers at Indiana University and St. Cloud State University.

Reading the Book

• Identify the author’s purpose in writing the book
• Summarize key points as you read
• Note the sources that the author is using
• Evaluate as you go: Is the purpose of the book being met? What is your standard for this evaluation?

Writing the Review

• Start with a heading: Title. Author. Place of publication: publisher, date of publication. Number of pages.

Introduction

• State the author and title in narrative form.
• Indicate the type of book under review.
• State the overall purpose or theme of the book.
• Identify the author’s qualifications.
• State the methodology used by the author to meet the purpose of the book.
• Provide any other background material deemed necessary, especially any needed to provide context.

Book Content

• Summary of the main points of the book
• Can include quotes or paraphrases of the author’s work to support the key points

Evaluation

• How well does the book achieve its purpose?
• What issues does the book raise? What was left out?
• How does the book compare to similar books?
• How did the book affect you?
Conclusion

• State the strengths and limitations of the book
• Identify the audience for the book
• Summarize your main points of the evaluation

Should you read other reviews?

“One reasonable tack is to draft your review, then scan the others for major points you may have missed, and then prepare your final version.”

-- B. Gastel