ABOUT REFERENCING

Academic referencing involves 3 main parts: the mechanics, which is about formatting; the ethics, which is acknowledging the author; and the rationale, which is about providing convincing evidence to support your argument.

Plagiarism is prevented by knowing these aspects and by developing your skills in note making, quoting, paraphrasing, summarising, and synthesising.
TOP TIPS FOR REFERENCING

1. Keep in mind that you reference in academic writing to have evidence to support your main idea.

2. Be meticulous. Note publishing details: author, title, date and place of publication, and page number.

3. Develop your own voice and use citations to support your point.

4. Do not quote too much directly – normally, no more than 5%. Follow the assignment guidelines.

5. Decide the best way to cite your source: direct quote, paraphrase or summarise.

6. Synthesise ideas from different sources to demonstrate your understanding and strengthen your argument.

7. Make sense. Make connections. Use transition phrases to link yours and others’ ideas.

8. Use reference management software such as Endnote for formatting or find a current model of the style required on your library homepage.

9. Good note making helps you to put what you have read into your own words and is the first step towards using citations.

10. Plagiarism occurs when you do not acknowledge the original author and write directly from the source rather than making notes in between reading and writing.

The Learning Centre
Telephone: +61 8 9266 7166
Email: tlc@curtin.edu.au

life.curtin.edu.au/learning-support/learning_centre.htm