Avoid PLAGIARISM

Definition

Plagiarism is "the uncredited use (both intentional and unintentional) of somebody else's words or ideas.*

* from the Purdue OWL's plagiarism section, created by Karl Stolley & Allen Brizee (http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/)

How can you avoid it?

- TAKE NOTES on your sources and use your notes instead of the articles themselves while you are writing your paper.
  - Try jotting down a list of only the most important facts and ideas, keeping each list entry less than 5 words long.
  - Try to summarize or explain a couple paragraphs of your source without looking so that it comes out in your voice (you can use a cell phone or laptop to record yourself and write down what you said later).

- PARAPHRASE your source material by changing the sentence structure and word choice from the original (turn over sheet for paraphrasing practice).

- CITE everything that came from an outside source (whether you paraphrased or quoted it) with an in-text citation and a Works Cited or References entry.

Paraphrasing Practice

The rules for paraphrasing:
- Change the structure of the sentence.
- Change the words in the sentence.
- Put quotation marks around any exact words or phrases that are from the original source.

Here's one strategy:
1) Change the subject of the sentence.
2) Finish re-writing the sentence starting from the new subject without changing the meaning.
3) Go back and check each of the words to make sure they aren't the same.

[Original]: Students who are non-native English speakers often struggle with paraphrasing because they lack the vocabulary and aren't confident in their own understanding of the original text.

I chose to use the last part of the sentence as my new subject, wrote the rest so that it still made sense, and then made sure I used different words.

[Paraphrase]: Low confidence in reading comprehension and limited vocabulary frequently make paraphrasing difficult for non-native English speaking students.