Five Tips for Avoiding Plagiarism

1. First, use your own ideas. It should be your paper and your ideas that should be the focus.

2. Use the ideas of others sparingly—only to support or reinforce your own argument. When you do use the work of others, always credit original authors for their information and ideas.

3. When taking notes, include complete citation information for each item you use. Be clear and accurate about where you found specific ideas.

4. Use quotation marks when directly stating another person's words.

5. A good strategy is to take 30 minutes and write a short draft of your paper without using any notes. It will help you think through what you want to say and help prevent your being too dependent upon your sources.