

What is Plagiarism?

Please read the quotations below.

from: G. S. Johal, S. H. Hulbert, and S. P. Briggs. 1995. Disease lesion mimics of maize: a model for cell death in plants. *BioEssays* 17: 685-692.

“A class of maize mutants, collectively known as disease lesion mimics, display discrete disease-like symptoms in the absence of pathogens. It is intriguing that a majority of these lesion mimics behave as dominant gain-of-function mutations. The production of lesions is strongly influenced by light, temperature, developmental state and genetic background. Presently, the biological significance of this lesion mimicry is not clear, although suggestions have been made that they may represent defects in the plants’ recognition of, or response to, pathogens.”... “In this paper we argue that this might be the case...”

Which of the following fail to give proper credit for the writing and/or ideas of the authors?

1. Currently, the biological significance of lesion mimicry in plants is not known, although suggestions have been made that they may represent defects in the plants’ recognition of, or response to, pathogens.
2. Currently, the biological significance of lesion mimicry in plants is not known, although suggestions have been made that they may represent defects in the plants’ recognition of, or response to, pathogens (Johal *et al.* 1995).
3. Currently, “the biological significance of lesion mimicry in plants is not known, although suggestions have been made that they may represent defects in the plants’ recognition of, or response to, pathogens” (Johal *et al.* 1995).
4. The biological significance of lesion mimicry in plants is currently not known, although some researchers believe that they may represent defects in the ability of plants to recognize or respond to pathogens.
5. The biological significance of lesion mimicry in plants is currently not known, although some researchers believe that they may represent defects in the ability of plants to recognize or respond to pathogens (Johal *et al.* 1995).
6. Lesion mimicry has been proposed to be due to mutations in genes controlling the ability of plants to detect and respond to pathogens.
7. Lesion mimicry has been proposed to be due to mutations in genes controlling the ability of plants to detect and respond to pathogens (Johal *et al.* 1995).
8. Disease-like lesions in plants may be due to mutations in genes controlling the ability of plants to defend themselves against pathogens (Johal *et al.* 1995).

Rules for Avoiding Plagiarism and Quotation Errors

1. Cite all ideas or information taken from another author.
2. Do not paraphrase. You might think it is acceptable to paraphrase as long as you cite your source, but your readers might not.
3. Do not quote unless it is genuinely necessary. If you *must* quote, make sure the quote is exact.

Note: A citation, such as "Johal *et al.* (1995)," gives credit for information and ideas. *It does NOT give credit for writing!*

The Key to Avoiding Plagiarism? Focus on Good Insights, Not Good Grammar!

The best way to avoid plagiarism is to focus on *what* you want to say, instead of *how* you say it. When you are summarizing the work of another author, try doing the following:

1. Read the source.
2. Think about what the author is saying. Why is it interesting or relevant to your own work? (If it is not relevant, don't write about it!)
3. *Put it aside!*
4. Again, think about the work and its relevance to your own.
5. Using *your own* language and style (*whatever* it is), write a single sentence that summarizes why the work is interesting or relevant. Using this as the first sentence (topic sentence) of a paragraph, explain why the work is interesting or relevant.
6. Add proper citations. Check for accuracy.
7. *Only then*, translate it into standard English and fix the grammar.

Ideas First! Words Second!