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Plagiarism Quiz

In order to not plagiarize, you have to make several key decisions based on the kind of materials you are dealing with. This quiz puts you into that decision-

4.

- c. Jacobs points to the Irish as a culture that managed to overcome a Dark Age through songs that inculcated in children and adults a love of their rich history and culture; this knowledge eventually led to economic success after centuries of oppression (172-173).
7. Jacobs writes in Dark Age Ahead that self-regulation is a problem in many fields. She offers an example from architecture: “Another form of architects’ self-regulation is to ban criticism of another’s work, especially criticism that can be heard or read by outsiders. This is why one reads few critical reviews by architects of new buildings. . . . [In Jacobs’ experience] [o]nly after an architect was dead and his office dissolved . . . could critical lessons be learned. . . .” (127).

This direct quote has ellipses (omissions denoted by 3 or 4 periods depending on where the omission is taken from—3 are used when information comes from the middle of a sentence and 4 when information occurs at the end of a sentence). What is the purpose of ellipses when quoting?

- a. to highlight the writer’s own interest in using that quote
- b. to clarify writing that would otherwise be unclear

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Answers to the Quiz

1. b: You can freely use the information in dictionaries and encyclopedias—but be sure to read the next question!!!
2. a. The first sentence DIRECTLY TAKES THE LANGUAGE OF THE ORIGINAL SOURCE, WHICH IS CALLED PLAGIARISM. Notice that sentence b. uses the information **in conjunction with the writer's interests** (not strictly repeating information itself). Sentence b is an example of what you want to do.
3. b You would quote this sentence because it is so well worded: any attempt you made to rewrite it into your own words would be longer and less rhetorically effective.
4. b It is acceptable.
5. a This sentence takes the language of Jacobs and is therefore plagiarized even though Jacobs is cited. You cannot take information without citing it, and you also cannot take the language of the author without acknowledging by direct quotation that you are using it.
6. c The other sentences do not acknowledge the original interpretation of Jacobs—they simply steal it without giving her credit.
7. c. You are in charge of the paper—not a long-winded author, so when you quote, use ellipses to keep the quote but center in on what you want.
8. To make reading smoother and to keep the punctuation in line with your sentence structure

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Pointers on Citation

- Turn the book over and write the meaning in your own words to avoid stealing the language of the author.
- Do not try to paraphrase when you are tired!
- Let your thesis statement/focus and voice guide your paraphrase, not the author's voice and focus
- Make good decisions about whether to quote or paraphrase.
- If information repeats 3-5 times in the sources you are reading, then consider it general