## 22 Organizing and Developing Your Ideas and Writing

In this paragraph
the underlined
text matches the original
language. To avoid plagiarism,
the student needs to put the
underlined language in quotes
and indicate that it is from
Senecal, Vallerand, and
Guay (2001).

The ideas expressed in this sentence are based on the original source. Even though the language is different, to avoid plagiarism, the student needs to indicate that the idea is from Senecal, Vallerand, and Guay (2001).

For the last 20 years, much research has shown that self-determined motivation is a useful concept to understand human behavior. Self-determination theory (Deci & Ryan, 1985, 1991) states that when choice or pleasure is involved, self-determination can help explain the motivations behind individuals' activities. Alternatively, individuals who participate in different activities out of internal and/or external pressures regulate their behavior in a non-self-determined fashion.

It is useful to cite the sources by Deci and Ryan (1985, 1991), but those sources do not provide the information that the author presents in this paragraph. To avoid plagiarism, it is more important to cite Senecal, Vallerand, and Guay (2001).

Even though the sentences are not in the same order as in the original paragraph, to avoid plagiarism it is important to put the ideas in your own words if you are not going to use quotation marks. You must also indicate that the idea is from Senecal, Vallerand, and Guay (2001).

Figure 2.1 Avoiding plagiarism.

internal and/or external pressures regulate their behavior in a non-self-determined fashion" (Senecal, Vallerand, & Guay, 2001, p. 178).

Whether intentional or unintentional, plagiarism is a very serious infraction. By *plagiarism*, we mean the use or representation of someone else's idea or language as your own. This can include:

In this paragraph the author indicates immediately that Senecal, Vallerand, and Guay (2001) is the source for this idea. The language is distinct from the original, so it does not need quotation marks.

Using this phrase "according to Senecal et al." lets the reader know that the idea in this sentence also came from another source. The language is distinct from the original so it does not need quotation marks.

Senecal, Vallerand, and Guay (2001) draw from research done by Deci and Ryan (1985, 1991) for their own work on self-determination theory, which offers insight into the relation between human activities and motivation. According to Senecal et al., when choice or pleasure is involved, self-determination can help explain the motivations behind individuals' activities. Alternatively, "individuals who participate in different activities out of internal and/or external pressures regulate their behavior in a non-selfdetermined fashion" (Senecal, Vallerand, & Guay, 2001, p.178).

Indicating that Senecal, Vallerand, and Guay (2001) use Deci and Ryan (1985, 1991), gives your reader an understanding of selfdetermination theory. However, it is more important to cite Senecal, Vallerand, and Guay (2001).

The last sentence uses language from the article by Senecal, Vallerand, and Guay (2001), so this paragraph's author uses quotation marks to indicate that it is not her language, and she gives a full in-text citation with a page number at the end of the quote.

Figure 2.2 Why plagiarism has been avoided.

- summarizing someone else's idea without giving that person credit;
- using someone else's language without giving that person credit;
- using someone else's language without quotation marks, even if you give that person credit for the idea;
- taking work that someone else wrote for you and presenting it as your own.

