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Most authors are aware of the need to cite any sources they use for statements in their manuscript. However, not all authors are aware of the need to be original in the phrasing and presentation of their text. Even if you appropriately cite a certain source, it's important that you convey its information in your own words. The writing should not closely resemble the original source—it should be different enough that a casual reader would not think that two passages were essentially the same text. And in cases where the writing is an exact duplicate, it should be enclosed in quotation marks.

With the accessibility of online sources, some authors commit what's been called copy-paste writing: copying a passage from another article and pasting it into their own. Or, they simply change a few words, thinking that that's sufficient to make the two texts different. This represents what's been called "the too-perfect paraphrase."

From: http://ww2.nscc.edu/library/types.html:

The “Too-Perfect Paraphrase”: The writer properly cites a source, but neglects to put in quotation marks text that has been copied word-for-word, or close to it. Although attributing the basic ideas to the source, the writer is falsely claiming original presentation and interpretation of the information.”

Both of these forms of writing essentially copy from another source, and represent a type of plagiarism, though certainly not as egregious as copying from another's work and failing to cite the original source. These forms of improper writing are especially prevalent in review articles, which by nature are based on other sources for the information conveyed. In any event, it's important that articles written for AFP be original in their writing, and that authors convey the information in their own words and presentation.

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