FEMALE SPEAKER: During your degree program at Walden, research and writing are the primary skills you need to expand your knowledge in your field of study. Anything that diminishes the strength or character of your research and writing can also compromise your opportunity to learn. Pursuit of a degree is both a privilege and a responsibility. Your choice to obtain your degree was thoughtfully considered, so you should approach your studies in the same manner, with academic integrity.

Academic integrity is achieved in many ways. First, accurately citing your sources of information contributes to your authority as a scholarly writer. Correct citation is an approved and accepted method of demonstrating that you know what you're writing about. And citing the research of others provides a context for your readers.

Avoiding plagiarism is a final component of upholding academic integrity. In an academic environment, committing plagiarism is a very serious offense, and is specifically prohibited by the University Code of Conduct, which Walden students are expected to abide by. This Code identifies plagiarism as the use of intellectual material produced by another person without acknowledging its source.

Some examples of plagiarism are copying passages of another author's writing into an assignment, discussion board post, thesis or dissertation without identifying the source. Plagiarism can be more subtle than copying, too. If you use the opinions, views, or insights of someone, but you pass those thoughts off as your own, that's academic fraud.

You will read a lot of scholarship, and you must learn not to paraphrase a characteristic, original phraseology, metaphor, or other literary device without acknowledging the original writer. You see, using the correct citation is key. Learning to respect the original work of another scholar is an essential part of your academic journey.

Look at an example. Compare the original version on the left with the student's version on the right. When reading this critically, you should ask yourself, does the student demonstrate scholarly writing and original thinking? Can I be confident that the student really knows her topic? Does this caliber of writing reflect academic integrity?

A few words were changed, and a source was cited, but the student couldn't have written this version from her own original thoughts. And it's obvious that the student didn't read Cross and Madson. So this is clearly an example of plagiarism. Sometimes, new students unknowingly plagiarize. So it's very important to clearly understand all of the expected rules for citation.

You'll be more comfortable with APA citation as you work through your courses, but here are a few common tips worth mentioning. Use direct quotes sparingly, perhaps when
an author says something just right, or when you want to reveal something about the author. Always cite a page or a paragraph number. And in APA style, use author/date citations.

You can always check the Walden Writing Center website, where there's a lot of information readily available, or contact the Walden Writing Center staff for more help. And last, remember that when you are engaging in scholarship, your task is to critically analyze the material. So in your writing, take the time to create an approach that reflects your knowledge and understanding of the topic. Best of luck to you in your degree program at Walden.