

Plagiarism Practice

Directions: Look at the examples of summarizing, paraphrasing and directly quoting below. Each of them is incorrect and could lead to accusations of plagiarism. First, explain what is wrong in each example and then correct it in the space provided. The source text is provided below.

In 1779, Henderson organized a two-part expedition to begin a settlement near a site on the Cumberland River called French Lick. James Robertson led a group of men overland to select a site for the settlement and to begin building houses. Due the difficulty in crossing the Cumberland Plateau, John Donelson was charged with transporting the supplies for the new settlement as well as a large number of women, children and enslaved people by way of the Holston, Tennessee, Ohio and Cumberland Rivers. Their arrival in the spring of 1780 signaled the beginning of permanent settlements in Middle Tennessee.

Author: John Smith

Incorrect Example

In 1779, Henderson planned a two-part expedition to start a settlement at a site on the Cumberland River. A group of men were led overland by James Robertson to select a site for the settlement and to begin building houses.

What is wrong with the example?

Corrected Example

Incorrect Example

Smith states that in 1779, James Robertson and John Donelson travelled to French Lick to begin a settlement. Donelson had to transport supplies for the new settlements as well as a large number of women, children and enslaved people by way of the Holston, Tennessee, Ohio and Cumberland Rivers.

What is wrong with the example?

Corrected Example

Incorrect Example

According to Smith, Donelson's arrival in the spring of 1780 signaled the beginning of permanent settlements in Middle Tennessee.

What is wrong with the example?

Corrected Example

Plagiarism Practice Key

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Incorrect Example

In 1779, Henderson planned a two-part expedition to start a settlement at a site on the Cumberland River. A group of men were led overland by James Robertson to select a site for the settlement and to begin building houses.

What is wrong with the example?

The example does not contain the author's name. The wording is too similar to the original to be a good summary.

Corrected Example

Answers will vary.

Incorrect Example

Smith states that in 1779, James Robertson and John Donelson travelled to French Lick to begin a settlement. Donelson had to transport supplies for the new settlements as well as a large number of women, children and enslaved people by way of the Holston, Tennessee, Ohio and Cumberland Rivers.

What is wrong with the example?

The wording of the example is too similar to the original to be a good paraphrase.

Corrected Example

Answers will vary.

Incorrect Example

According to Smith, Donelson's arrival in the spring of 1780 signaled the beginning of permanent settlements in Middle Tennessee.

What is wrong with the example?

This example contains a direct quote that is not enclosed in quotation marks.

Corrected Example