Here’s our scenario...

You’ve read this excerpt, taken verbatim from its original source:

The Washington Post published an editor’s note on its Web site Wednesday apologizing for two articles by a longtime Post reporter who used material from The Arizona Republic without crediting that newspaper or citing it as a source.


You want to put some of the information from that source into your paper.

Here’s your draft—this is what you write in your paper:

The Washington Post apologized for two articles by a longtime Post reporter used from The Arizona Republic. The reporter did not give credit to the newspaper or cite the source used.

Compare your draft with the excerpt from the original source & the information about that source provided above.
What’s wrong with your draft?

1. No quotation marks in the first sentence for your word-for-word quotation: 
   *for two articles by a longtime Post reporter* is a direct quote

2. No acknowledgement of author/source within the text of your paragraph: 
   You needed at least the author’s last name (Vega) & one other piece of information

3. No complete citation of the source—You needed all of this information: 

So how can you correct this?

Here’s one way to correct your draft and avoid plagiarizing:

*The Washington Post* apologized for “two articles by a longtime Post reporter” used from *The Arizona Republic*. The reporter did not give credit to the newspaper or cite the source used (Vega, 2011).

References:


You’ll notice we now have the following:

1. Quotation marks around the direct quote, “two articles by a longtime Post reporter”
2. Brief citation at the end of the sentence, (Vega, 2011)

   Full citation separately listed:

Remember, you need 3 things when you quote someone to avoid plagiarizing:

1. Brief citation - Acknowledgement of source directly in that same sentence and/or in a parenthetical citation (like this) in or at the end of that sentence
   • Typically at least 2 pieces of info about source, often: Name of person(s) + page no. or publication year

2. Complete, accurate citation of source (who, what, where, when, etc.), typically at the end of your paper in a list of sources
   • Typically in a list called Bibliography, Works Cited, or References
3. Quotation marks or other appropriate indication when you include a quote
   • See your MLA, APA, or other style manual for details.

And that’s it!

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