Theme 02: Defining the Research Problem

**Avoiding Plagiarism**

**Question 1**

Compare the work submitted by this student with the original text.

**Submitted text**

Reality TV claims to feature ‘ordinary’ people doing ‘ordinary’ things. The emphasis on everyday life minimises the distance between the audience and the actors making the viewer feel like they too could become one of them by becoming a contestant, or being in the studio audience. (Tinknell & Raghuram)

**Original text**

“Reality TV claims to feature ‘ordinary’ people doing ‘ordinary’ things. As a genre, the ‘people show’ minimises the distance between the audience and the ‘actors’ through its emphasis on everyday life so that the viewer is invited to recognise the participant as belonging to her or his own habitus. A viewer sitting at home is not only invited to identify *with* the actors; she or he can *become* one of them by volunteering to tell her story, become a contestant, or by taking part in the show as one of the studio audience”. (Tinknell & Raghuram 2004, p. 258)

Source: Holmes, S. and Jermyn, D. eds. 2004. *Understanding reality television*. Routledge: London.

In your opinion has the student:

1. 🞏 Written about the original text in their own words?
2. 🞏 Copied phrases from the original text without quotations marks?
3. 🞏 Failed to provide a correct citation?
4. 🞏 Provided a correct citation?
5. 🞏 Included too many words from the original text?
6. 🞏 Used the author’s ideas without providing a citation?

**Question 2**

Now compare the following three pieces of draft essay text with the original and decide which would be the appropriate piece of work for the student to hand in:

**Original text**

“Having a home is a basic human need; we all need somewhere to live. For those people within society without a home life is barely tolerable, and for a society (especially a modern welfare state) a continuing problem of homelessness is an indictment of the ability of that society to meet the welfare needs of all its citizens. Yet homelessness remains a significant problem in affluent, welfare, Britain at the beginning of the twenty-first century, with hundreds of people sleeping rough on the streets of towns and cities every night because they do not have a home of their own to go to” (Alcock 2003, p. 73).

Source: Alcock, P. 2003. *Social policy in Britain*. 2nd ed. London: Palgrave

Which draft essay would you submit?

**Draft essay 1**

“Having a home is a basic human need; we all need somewhere to live”. However, despite the fact Britain is a wealthy society with an established welfare state, there are still many homeless people living on the streets.

**Draft essay 2**

“Having a home is a basic human need; we all need somewhere to live” (Alcock 2003, p. 73). However, as Alcock (2003) points out, despite the fact Britain is a wealthy society with an established welfare state, there are still many homeless people living on our streets.

**Draft essay 3**

Having a home is a basic human need; we all need somewhere to live. (Alcock 2003, p. 73). However, even in affluent, welfare Britain, there are still hundreds of people sleeping rough.

🞏 Draft essay 1

🞏 Draft essay 2

🞏 Draft essay 3