



Written by [R. Cort Kirkwood](#) on December 13, 2023

NY Post: Harvard Chief Plagiarized 27 Times in Three Articles

Harvard President Claudine Gay's plagiarism is worse than previously reported.

While conservative writers Christopher Rufo and Christopher Brunet [divulged scholarly misconduct](#) in Gay's doctoral thesis, the *New York Post* has revealed that Harvard threatened to sue the newspaper for defamation if it revealed more than two dozen other instances of Gay's lifting material from published sources without attribution.

The question is whether the *Post's* revelation will force Gay to resign or force the nation's oldest university to fire the diversity hire. Then again, perhaps Gay's black privilege will protect her.



X/New York Post
Claudine Gay

Plagiarized 27 Times

In a statement released after the Rufo-Brunet disclosure, Harvard backed Gay and said she did not violate academic standards in three articles, a reference to material the *Post* was investigating:

With regard to President Gay's academic writings, the University became aware in late October of allegations regarding three articles. At President Gay's request, the Fellows [of Harvard College] promptly initiated an independent review by distinguished political scientists and conducted a review of her published work. On December 9, the Fellows reviewed the results, which revealed a few instances of inadequate citation. While the analysis found no violation of Harvard's standards for research misconduct, President Gay is proactively requesting four corrections in two articles to insert citations and quotation marks that were omitted from the original publications.

But that wasn't the "full story," the [Post reported](#). "Harvard called in bulldog attorneys to protect Gay." "The *Post* contacted the university on October 24, asking for comment on more than two dozen instances in which Gay's words appeared to closely parallel words, phrases or sentences in published works by other academics," the newspaper reported:

The 27 instances were in two academic papers published in two peer-reviewed journals between 2011 and 2017, and an article in an academic magazine in 1993.

The *Post* was sent the material anonymously and had conducted our own analysis before



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asking Harvard to comment on whether Gay had plagiarized or failed to properly cite other academics' work.

We have continued to investigate since.

The *Post* contacted the university, whose spokesman, Jonathan Swain — a former legman for Joe Biden and Hillary Clinton — would “get back in touch over the next couple of days.”

But Swain ducked into the bushes and didn't respond. Instead the *Post* received a 15-page letter from Harvard's defamation attorney. “The letter contained comments from academics whose work Gay was alleged to have improperly cited — even though the political scientists' review could only just have begun,” the [Post continued](#).

The Improperly Cited Works

Plagiarism expert Jonathan Bailey told the *Post* that Gay violated Harvard's policy on scholarly attribution.

“Academics whose work appeared startlingly similar to Gay's differed in whether they felt she had appropriated their work without attribution,” the [Post reported](#). A history professor told the newspaper that such borrowing “happens fairly often in academic writing and for me does not rise to the level of plagiarism. I am glad she read my work, learned from it, and recommended it to her readers.”

Another said, “we partnered with Claudine on some work and my guess would be that it is the connection.”

But a third, professor Anne Williamson at Ohio's University of Miami, told the *Post* she was “angry” and “it does look like plagiarism to me.”

[Continued Williamson:](#)

If they are going to do what they did, then I should be cited as a reference. My first reaction is shock. The second reaction is puzzlement. There was a way to draw from my paper. All she had to do is give me a credit.

Below are three examples of Gay's plagiarism, as documented in the [New York Post](#):

**What Gay wrote:**

The fundamental organizational unit, as approved by the founding National Assembly in 1978, was to be the Center of Struggle (*Centro de Luta*). Centers were to be formed in work areas, villages, prisons, candomble and umbanda temples, samba schools, churches, and favelas.

"Between Black and White" 1993

What Covin wrote:

In the basic organizational structure which they approved, the Centers of Struggle were the fundamental organizational units. These were to be formed in work areas, villages, prisons, candomblé and umbanda temples, samba schools, afoxés, churches, and favelas.

"Afrocentricity in O Movimento negro Unifacado" 1990

**What Gay wrote:**

I also construct a county-level measure that captures the financial incentives developers have to build or rehabilitate affordable housing in the most impoverished places (Hollar and Usowski 2007).

"A Room for One's Own?" 2017

What Freedman and Owens wrote:

As an instrument for low-income housing development, we construct a county-level measure that captures the incentives developers have to build or rehabilitate affordable housing in certain tracts.

"Low-income housing development and crime" 2017

**What Gay wrote:**

The LIHTC is widely considered one of the nation's most successful housing programs, and accounts for an estimated one-sixth of all multifamily housing—subsidized or unsubsidized—built in the United States since program inception (Schwartz 2010).

"A Room for One's Own?" 2017

What Williamson wrote:

Further, the LIHTC is responsible for an estimated one-sixth of all multifamily rental housing—both subsidized and unsubsidized—produced in the United States each year (Schwartz 2010).

"Can They Afford the Rent?" 2011

Scandal Exposed

Gay's plagiarism went public when Rufo and Brunet put a microscope over her doctoral dissertation, *Race, Sociopolitical Participation, and Black Empowerment*.

The two writers reported that Gay used the work of others with either improper attribution of paraphrased material or by directly lifting material verbatim without quotation marks.

Some of the unattributed material came from former Vanderbilt and Princeton Professor Carol Swain. She told Breitbart radio that Gay is "an embarrassment" who must resign.

She also said that a "white male, or even a white female, caught in the scandal that she's caught in" would be fired.

If Harvard keeps Gay on board, it won't be the first time a major university protected a prominent black accused of plagiarism.

In 1991, [after Boston University confessed](#) that Martin Luther King plagiarized large portions of his doctoral thesis, it did not revoke his degree.

But, like Gay, King plagiarized material for his other works as well.

As leftist white historian [Ralph Luker explained](#), "when he went to predominately white institutions in the North, King received extraordinarily high grades for academic work which was not only often heavily plagiarized, but was otherwise quite unexceptional."

It appears that Gay is receiving the same [soft bigotry of low expectations](#).



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H/T: [Legal Insurrection](#)



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