Viruses have become a major issue in many large organizations, but most organizations still rely on users maintaining virus definitions on their individual computers, with no internal firewalls to protect one computer from another. However, any structure is only as strong as its weakest link; these organizations are highly vulnerable to infection (Barlman and Trey 2001).

In this example, a citation is given, but it isn’t clear that it refers to the whole block of text. Also, there is nothing to indicate that the wording is unoriginal—despite a few small changes, the text is copied. If the wording or the sense of the original text is required, it would instead be appropriate to write something like the following:

As discussed by Barlman and Trey (2001), who investigated the impact of viruses in large organizations, “most still rely on individual users maintaining virus definitions, with no internal firewalls to protect one user from another. However, any structure is only as strong as its weakest link; these organizations are highly vulnerable.”

Alternatively, the essence of the original can be concisely summarized, with clear attribution:

Barlman and Trey (2001) investigated the impact of viruses in large organizations. They found that organizations are vulnerable if individuals fail to keep virus definitions up to date, as internal firewalls are rare.

The lesson of this example is that citation by itself is not sufficient. It is necessary to indicate exactly what material is taken from the reference, and to identify that material as a quote. (If it is a quote)

The following is adapted (to protect the guilty) from a real example:

This distribution of costs follows a power law [2] in which only a few tasks have high impact. The form of the law is [13] for fixed cost $C$ given by $P(x > C) \sim 2^{-\alpha k}$ where $\alpha > 1$ and $k > 1$. The parameter $\alpha$ describes user behaviour. Determination of $k$ for a specific application can be achieved through modelling as a Poisson distribution.

In this example, everything but the citations are copied from the reference “[2]”, including the erroneous misplacement of $k$, which should be a superscript.

Paraphrase of the structure of a paper is also plagiarism. If one paper follows another to the extent that they use the same headings, have tables of the