

Plagiarism

What it is and how to avoid it

What is Plagiarism

- Claiming someone else's intellectual property as your own.
- It is considered theft.
- There are dire consequences for plagiarizing

Deliberate Plagiarism

- Buying a paper off the Internet and passing it off as your own.
- Copying someone else's paper and claiming it's your own work.

Patch Plagiarism

- Grabbing something off the Internet and passing it off as your own work.
- Not being careful to document your sources within the body of your written text due to carelessness.

What You Are NOT Required to
Acknowledge

Facts Available From Many Sources

- The death toll of the Titanic
- The number of Senators in Congress
- The number of bones in the human body

What You *ARE* Required To
Acknowledge

Quotations

- Anything you quote that you did not come up with yourself.
 - Citation after both long and short quotes must be included within the body of the text
 - End of text citations must have appeared within the body of the text.

Summaries and Paraphrases

- Even if you summarize or paraphrase the information you researched, you **STILL** have to document your source both within the text and in the end of text citation page(s).

Facts that are **NOT** common knowledge

- Any fact that isn't readily known, you need to cite.
- FYI – Just cite everything that isn't your own work.

Ideas that are NOT common knowledge

- Typically, this means anything you look up on the Internet or find in an academic journal.
- Sources of theories, analyses, statements of opinion, and arguable claims should be cited.

Statistics, Research Findings, Examples, Graphs, Charts, and Illustrations

- Did you create any of the statistical data, et al. on your own? If the answer is no, then you need to cite your source.

Plagiarism in College Writing

Missing Attribution

- The author of your quote/source must always be identified.

Missing Quotation Marks

- Put quotation marks around direct quotes.
- **DO NOT** use quotation marks to denote emphasis.
 - Only use quotation marks in an academic paper if you are actually quoting someone.

Inadequate Citation

- You need to not only include the source, but you must also include the page number from where you got the information.
 - This applies to direct quotes, summaries, and paraphrases

Paraphrases That Rely Too Heavily On the Source

- FYI – A good rule of thumb is to just CITE EVERYTHING!

Distortion of Meaning

- Don't allow a summary or paraphrase to distort the meaning of the source.
- Don't take quotations out of context, resulting in a change of meaning.

Missing Works Cited Entry

- All of the sources you cite within the body of your text **MUST** be included on a works cited page.
- Exceptions
 - Personal conversations
 - In person
 - Letter
 - Phone call
 - Email

Inadequate Citation of Images

- Just because you found it on the Internet doesn't mean it's in the Public Domain.
- Double check to make sure you are adequately citing the source of images you find on the Internet or in books and magazines.
- A figure or photo Must appear with a caption and a citation

Avoid Plagiarism When Taking Notes

- Create a working bibliography and make separate files for content notes.
 - This is where your Annotated Bibliography comes in handy
- Place quotation marks around anything you copy from a source and note the page numbers/URLs.
- If you retrieve information from an online source, print out the entire source so that you can refer to it later.
 - Make sure you copy down all of the relevant citation information.

Quoting Without Plagiarizing

Use Quotation Marks When Quoting Directly

- Put quotation marks around a direct quote.
- Include both the source *AND* the page number within the citation.
- The format for how you cite an in-text source will depend on which style you use, APA or MLA
- Any source you include within the body of your text *MUST* appear on an end of text citation page.

Attribute Every Quotation

- If the author's name appears within the text, you only need to include the page number at the end of the quotation. However, how the citation looks will depend on the style you use – APA or MLA
 - Example:
 - In her dissertation on reading skills acquisition in very young readers, Kathy Austin states that very young readers are masters at symbol manipulation (Austin, p. 237) – APA
 - In her dissertation on reading skills acquisition in very young readers, Kathy Austin states that very young readers are masters at symbol manipulation (237). - MLA

Quoting Material That is Quoted Within A Source

- Use single quotation marks to quote material that is already quoted in your source:
 - Example
 - Steven Johnson uses the metaphor of a Gothic cathedral to describe a computer interface” “‘The principle of the Gothic architecture,’ Coleridge once said, ‘is infinity made imaginable.’ The same could be said for the modern interface” (42).

Summarizing and Paraphrasing Without Plagiarizing

- Cite everything.

Incorporate Quotations

Limit the use of long quotes

Check that each quotation supports your major points

- Use quotes to support your arguments rather than depending on them to make your argument for you.

Each quote should be introduced and attributed

- The author and title of the source should appear within the body of your text.
- The quote must be properly cited at the end of the quote within the text and in the end of text citation page.

Proper format and punctuation

- Make sure that your in-text citations are no longer than 4 lines.
- If you use a longer quote, the text should be indented
- Enclose shorter quotation in quotation marks.
- Properly cite your source at the end of your quotation.

Cite each source for each quotation

- If you use a source within the body of your text, you must cite it within the text and in the end of text citation page.

Check for accuracy

- Did you quote your source accurately?
- Check for grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

Proof read your paper!

- Read your papers out loud.
- Have a classmate review your paper for you.
- Have the Writing Center look over your paper before you turn it in.