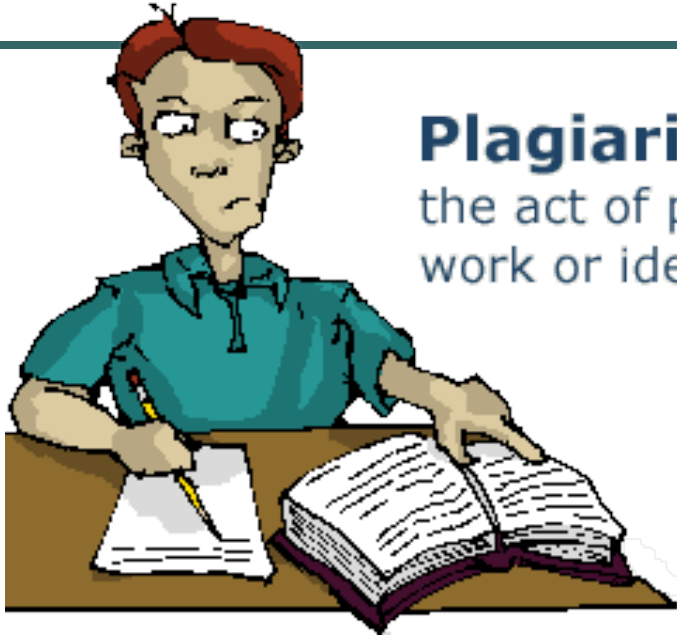


Plagiarism

Giving Credit Where Credit
is Due!

-- taken from Joyce Brannon's "Plagiarism." PowerPoint Presentation & Joyce Valenza's "What is Plagiarism?" (See works cited). (Internet downloads)

Plagiarism defined:



Plagiarism:

the act of presenting another's work or ideas as your own.

The word
“plagiarism”
comes from the
Latin *plagiarius*
meaning
“kidnapper”

PoliticsNJ, The Pulblis Group, Hoboken, NJ.
<http://www.politicsnj.com/plagerism090903.htm>.

According to the Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary (<http://www.m-w.com>), to plagiarize means:

“transitive senses : to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own : use (another's production) without crediting the source

intransitive senses : to commit literary theft : present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source”

Why is plagiarism important? Who *really* cares?

- Plagiarism is **theft** of intellectual property.
- Plagiarism is **cheating**.
- Plagiarism may result in receiving **a failing grade or zero** for the assignment. Plagiarism could result in a disciplinary referral. Students caught plagiarizing may be denied admittance to or removal from the National Honor Society.

Some of the things that you think you know about plagiarism may be wrong.

It does not matter if the person whose work you have cited is alive or dead. If it is not your own idea, you must cite your source!

If you translate or paraphrase something, you must still give a citation.

If you use a picture from the Internet, you must cite the source.

Two types of plagiarism:

● Intentional

- Copying a friend's work
- Buying or borrowing papers
- Cutting and pasting blocks of text from electronic sources without documenting
- Media "borrowing" without documentation
- Web publishing without permissions of creators



● Unintentional

- Careless paraphrasing
- Poor documentation
- Quoting excessively
- Failure to use your own "voice"

Excuses

Everyone does it!

It's okay if
I don't get caught!

This assignment
was BORING!

I was too busy to
write that paper!
(Job, big game, too much homework!)

I've got to get
into
??? U!

My teachers
expect
too much!

My parents
expect "A"s!



You may have been told that if you put something into your own words, you need not cite. This is incorrect. The material is still someone else's idea and requires acknowledgement.

Paraphrasing requires a citation.

Real life consequences:

- Damaged the reputation of two prominent historians, Stephen Ambrose and Doris Kearns Goodwin,
 - Kearns left television position and stepped down as Pulitzer Prize judge for “lifting” 50 passages for her 1987 book *The Fitzgeralds and the Kennedys* (Lewis)
- Senator Joseph Biden dropped his 1987 campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination. (Sabato)
 - Copied in law school and borrowed from campaign speeches of Robert Kennedy
- Boston Globe journalist Mike Barnicle forced to resign for plagiarism in his columns (“Boston Columnist . . .”)
- Probe of plagiarism at UVA--45 students dismissed, 3 graduate degrees revoked
 - [CNN Article](#) AP. 26 Nov. 2001
 - [Channel One Article](#) AP. 27 Nov. 2002

Is this important?

- What if:

- Your architect cheated his way through math class. Will your new home be safe?
- Your lawyer paid for a copy of the bar exam to study. Will the contract she wrote for you stand up in court?
- The accountant who does your taxes hired someone to write his papers and paid a stand-in to take his major tests? Does he know enough to complete your tax forms properly?

(Lathrop and Foss 87)

Do I have
to cite
everything?



Nope!

- Facts that are widely known, or
- Information or judgments considered “common knowledge”

Do **NOT** have to be documented.



**Hooray for
common
knowledge!**

Examples of common knowledge

- John Adams was our second president
- The Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941

If you see a fact in three or more sources, and you are fairly certain your readers already know this information, it is likely to be “common knowledge.”

But when in doubt, cite!

No need to document when:

- You are discussing your own experiences, observations, or reactions
- Compiling the results of original research, from science experiments, etc.
- You are using *common knowledge*

What's the big deal?

If I change a few words, I'm okay, right?



Wrong! Paraphrasing original ideas without documenting your source, is plagiarism too!



You can “borrow” from
the works of others in
your own work!

Use these three strategies,

- Quoting
- Paraphrasing
- Summarizing

*To blend source materials in with your own,
making sure your own voice is heard.*

Quoting

Quotations are the exact words of an author, copied directly from a source, word for word. Quotations must be cited!

Use quotations when:

- You want to add the power of an author's words to support your argument
- You want to disagree with an author's argument
- You want to highlight particularly eloquent or powerful phrases or passages
- You are comparing and contrasting specific points of view
- You want to note the important research that precedes your own

Quotations should be used sparingly. They must be exact, word-for-word as they appear in the original document.

Quotes require a citation in addition to the use of quote marks.

Every quoted word needs to be cited. Even a short phrase or single word must be quoted and cited if it is unusual.

“pretzeled logic”

“clandestine coup”

Using Sources Effectively: Strengthening Your Writing and Avoiding Plagiarism. Robert A. Harris. Los Angeles, California: Pyczak Publishers, 2002.

Quotations must be attributed to the original author and the source that you used.

For example:

If you use the phrase, “Fourscore and twenty years ago, our forefathers . . .” you must give credit to Abraham Lincoln and the book in which he is quoted.

Lincoln, Abraham. Gettysburg Address. In Lincoln at Gettysburg: the Words that Remade America, Garry Wills. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1992.

Paraphrasing

Paraphrasing means rephrasing the words of an author, putting his/her thoughts in your own words. When you paraphrase, you rework the source's ideas, words, phrases, and sentence structures with your own. Like quotations, paraphrased material must be followed with in-text documentation and cited on your Works-Cited page.

Paraphrase when:

- You plan to use information on your note cards and wish to avoid plagiarizing
- You want to avoid overusing quotations
- You want to use your own voice to present information

Carol Rohrbach and Joyce Valenza

Examples:

Source: Unless steps are taken to provide a predictable and stable energy supply in the face of growing demand, the nation may be in danger of sudden power losses or even extended blackouts, thus damaging our industrial and information-based economies. – John Doe, 1999, p.231.

Inadequate paraphrase: Doe (1999) recommends that the government take action to provide a predictable and stable energy supply because of constantly growing demand. Otherwise, we may be in danger of losing power or even experiencing extended blackouts. These circumstances could damage our industrial and information-based economy. (p.231).

The inadequate paraphrase is guilty of plagiarism even though the material is cited correctly. The writer has used too many word-for-word phrases from the source. Also, the order of the ideas is unchanged from the source.

Compare the following correct paraphrase:

Doe (1999) believes that we must find a more reliable source of energy if we are to have a dependable electricity supply. Without this, the nation's economic base may be damaged by blackouts (p.231).

Using Sources Effectively: Strengthening Your Writing and Avoiding Plagiarism. Robert A. Harris. Los Angeles, California: Pyczak Publishers, 2002.

Summarizing

- **Summarizing involves putting the main idea(s) of one or several writers into your own words, including only the main point(s). Summaries are significantly shorter than the original and take a broad overview of the source material. Again, it is necessary to attribute summarized ideas to their original sources.**

Summarize when:

- You want to establish background or offer an overview of a topic
- You want to describe knowledge (from several sources) about a topic
- You want to determine the main ideas of a single source

As you take notes:

- Include any direct quotes or unique phrases in quotation marks or mark with a big **Q** and make sure the speaker's /writer's name is identified.
- Make sure you note a paraphrase with the writer's name and mark it with a big **P**
- Include page numbers and source references so you can go back and check for accuracy as you write.

WHEN IN DOUBT, USE A CITATION!!

Sorry, you cannot use someone else's paper, art work, or presentation without proper citation even if he gave you permission. (Of course, your instructor may not want someone else's paper as your work even with proper citation!)

You may even have to cite yourself. If you created a work for a previous paper or presentation, and you are using it again, you must cite your previous work.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

The Copyright Crash Course, by Georgia K. Harper, 2001, University of Texas at Austin, <http://www.utsystem.edu/ogc/IntellectualProperty/cprtindx.htm>. This site explains copyright and fair use in easy to understand language.

Online! A reference guide to using Internet sources, by Andrew Harnock and Eugene Kleppinger, 2003, <http://www.bedfordstmartins.com/online/index.html>. This site includes links to many citation styles.

OWL, Online Writing Lab, Purdue University, “Research and Documenting Sources,” <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research>. This site contains explanations and examples of many aspects of writing a paper.

FYI -- continued

“Plagiarism Sites,” English Department, Jacksonville State University, Alabama, <http://www.jsu.edu/depart/english/treed/plagiarism.html>. A compiled list of sites dealing with plagiarism.

“Plagiarism in the News,” Bridgewater College Online Writing Lab, Bridgewater, Virginia, <http://www.bridgewater.edu/WritingCenter/Workshops/PlagiarismCases.htm>. A discussion of recent legal cases involving plagiarism. This presentation has been prepared by Joyce A. Brannan, Julia Tutwiler Library, University of West Alabama, Livingston, Alabama, 35470. 2004.

“What is Plagiarism?” Georgetown University. <http://www.georgetown.edu/honor/plagiarism.html>. Covers many aspects of plagiarism in an often humorous manner.

Works Cited (for this PowerPoint Presentation)

Brannon, Joyce. "Plagiarism." PowerPoint Presentation.
University of West Alabama, Livingston, AL.

<http://libraryuwa.edu/Help/Plagiarism.ppt> (1/30/06)

Valenza, Joyce. "What is Plagiarism?" Springfield Township High School. Springfield, IL. <http://mciu.org/~spjvweb/plagiarism.ppt> (1/30/06).