Plagiarism
A Primer

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Topics

- Definition
- Forms of Plagiarism
- Some Statistics
- Reasons Students Plagiarize
- Reasons Not To Plagiarize
- Consequences
  - FSE Plagiarism Policy and Protocol
- Avoiding Plagiarism
- Some Examples
- Concluding Thought
- Test Your Knowledge
- Some Resources
Definition

- The practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own.  
  (2001 New Oxford American Dictionary)

- The reproduction or appropriation of someone else’s work without proper attribution.  
  (Turnitin.com and Research Resources, cited in plagiarism.org)
The word *plagiarize* comes from the Latin *plagiarius*, which means “kidnapper.”

- Plagiarism constitutes literary or intellectual thievery.

NSU Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences 2009–2010 Catalog
Graphic from San Jose State University plagiarism webpage
(http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/tutorial/plagiarism/tutorial/3plagiarism.htm)
Forms of Plagiarism

- Copying sentences, phrases, paragraphs, or ideas from someone else’s work, published or unpublished, without giving credit to the author.
  - Not using quotation marks and proper citation/attribution.
- Replacing select words from a passage without giving credit to the original author.
  - Not paraphrasing properly.
- Cutting and pasting phrases, ideas, and sentences together from a variety of sources.
  - Does not represent your own thinking / original work.
- Submitting someone else’s work as your own.
  - With or without their knowledge.
- Resubmitting your own work in more than one course.
- Knowingly giving or allowing one’s own work to be copied or otherwise duplicated by another for academic credit.
- Obtaining a paper from a paper mill, website, or other source.

http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/tutorial/plagiarism/tutorial/introduction.htm
In part from: San Jose State University
Some Statistics

- 54% of students admit to having plagiarized from the internet.
  - 44% of students consider minor cut-and-paste internet plagiarism as “trivial” cheating, or not cheating at all.
- 75% of college students admit to cheating.
  - 90% don’t believe cheaters get caught.

- Facts about Plagiarism (Plagiarism.org, 2010).
Reasons Students Plagiarize

- Procrastination / Lack of Time
  - Poor time management skills (need to get it done at the last minute)
- Panic / Pressure
  - Unable to cope with course workload
- Poor research skills
  - Poor understanding of citation and referencing
  - Inability to integrate and synthesize
- Carelessness
  - Lack of attention to detail
- Laziness
  - Can get away with it
Reasons Not To Plagiarize

- Impedes learning and development of research and writing skills
- It’s dishonest
- It’s stealing and lying
- It’s academic misconduct
- Violation of the NSU Student Code of Conduct and Academic Responsibility
- Anxiety over getting caught
- Stigma
- Professors aren’t stupid
- Turnitin.com
- There are consequences

In part from:
10 Good Reasons to Never, Ever Plagiarize a College Paper (http://www.eduinreview.com)
Consequences

“It does not matter if you intend to plagiarize or not. Any form of plagiarism constitutes an offense for which there are consequences. *Ignorance is never an excuse.*” (emphasis added)

Turnitin.com, 2002
"I stole my term paper off the Internet, but I think it’s okay. My topic is plagiarism."

Cartoon by Randy Glasbergen
Consequences
FSE Plagiarism Policy

- **Courses**: Penalties for plagiarism can range from reduced grades on assignments or in courses, to failing grades on assignments or in courses, as determined by the course professor. A subsequent occurrence of plagiarism in a future course (i.e., a second violation) results in immediate dismissal from the Abraham S. Fischler School of Education without the possibility or re-enrolling at any time.

- Any Occurrence of Plagiarism on a Practicum or Applied Dissertation (concept paper, proposal, final report), as determined by the practicum advisor or applied dissertation committee chair, results in immediate dismissal from the Abraham S. Fischler School of Education without the possibility of re-enrolling at any time.
Consequences
What you can expect

- Email from professor with request for an explanation
  - What to say?
- Response from professor
  - Consequence
- Reported to Student Judicial Affairs

- May not retroactively withdraw from course to avoid a failing grade
  - Will be re-registered
  - Will receive “F” for course
Avoiding Plagiarism

- Paraphrasing is not done in a proper way
- Ideas used without referencing to original source
- Unacknowledged copying of material
- Submitting someone else's original work
“Majority of students, these days, are copying material from the internet without any or proper citation. This is a big issue of plagiarism. Students don’t paraphrase it good enough, they don’t acknowledge the original author or they simply download and submit someone else’s work. These are the major reasons why students get caught in plagiarism. On the other hand, LeadingEssays.com will do all that is necessary to avoid plagiarism, our 100% plagiarism free writing considers all aspects of plagiarism to help you get the best un-plagiarized essay. Our professional writers look at the level of the student and then start writing so as to make sure your paper matches the expectations of your professor so you are not in hot waters.”

leadingessays.com/plagiarism
"I like the writing in that paper. I only wish some of it had been yours."

I like the writing in that paper. I only wish some of it had been yours.

Cartoon by Matthew Henry Hall (www.matthewhenryhall.com)
Avoiding Plagiarism

- Do your own work
  - Attention to detail
- Allow plenty of time to research/write
- Cite your sources
  - When in doubt, cite
- Use quotation marks, include page numbers when quoting
  - Does not matter how large or small the quote
  - Block if 40 words or more
- When paraphrasing, use your own words
  - Not enough to simply rearrange / substitute a few words
- Keep APA Publication Manual at your side
  - Know it, live it, love it…
- For charts, graphs, tables, etc., list source
- Keep a running list of references each time you cite
- Keep copies of your notes and sources

In part from: Princeton University
(http://www.princeton.edu/pr/pub/integrity/08/cite)
Avoiding Plagiarism
Rule of Thumb

If you write something that leads your professor to ask who said that, or where did that come from, it needs to be cited...

FSE Program Professor, Anonymous
Avoiding Plagiarism
Quoting and Paraphrasing

“Quoting means using someone else’s *exact* words. **Paraphrasing** is putting someone else’s words or ideas into your own words.”

“Some of the most common mistakes made when writing a research paper are paraphrasing incorrectly and failing to give the original author credit. Even if you are using your own words, the ideas are still taken from someone else and must be cited.”

“Use direct quotes and paraphrasing to support your own ideas, not replace them... Be sure to give the original author credit by using a citation.”

San Jose State University
(http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/tutorial/plagiarism/tutorial/introduction.htm)
“Paraphrasing is not simply rearranging or rewording an original passage. Correct paraphrasing consists of reading the original passage, understanding what the original author is saying, synthesizing… the information, and then expressing your understanding of these ideas in your own words.”

San Jose State University (http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/tutorial/plagiarism/tutorial/introduction.htm)
Avoiding Plagiarism
Common Knowledge

- Facts that are generally known by most people and can be easily found in the literature.

- Common Knowledge does not need to be cited.

- Note of Caution: Opinions can differ on what is, or isn’t Common Knowledge.
  - If in doubt, cite

San Jose State University (http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/tutorial/plagiarism/tutorial/introduction.htm)
Cardiff University ((https://ilrb.cf.ac.uk/plagiarism/tutorial/common.html)
Should I Cite?

Is it a Quote?
Yes: Use quotation marks and cite it
No: Is it a Paraphrase?
Yes: Cite it
No: Is it another’s idea/theory?
Yes: Cite it
No: There is no need to cite if it’s Common Knowledge or Your Own Thoughts

Cardiff University
https://ilrb.cf.ac.uk/plagiarism/tutorial/whento1.html
Some Examples

#1

Original source (text)


From time to time this submerged or latent theater in becomes almost overt. It is close to the surface in Hamlet’s pretense of madness, the “antic disposition” he puts on to protect himself and prevent his antagonists from plucking out the heart of his mystery. It is even closer to the surface when Hamlet enters his mother’s room and holds up, side by side, the pictures of the two kings, Old Hamlet and Claudius, and proceeds to describe for her the true nature of the choice she has made, presenting truth by means of a show. Similarly, when he leaps into the open grave at Ophelia’s funeral, ranting in high heroic terms, he is acting out for Laertes, and perhaps for himself as well, the folly of excessive, melodramatic expressions of grief.

Verbatim plagiarism, or unacknowledged direct quotation (lifted passages are in black)

Almost all of Shakespeare’s Hamlet can be understood as a play about acting and the theater. For example, there is Hamlet’s pretense of madness, the “antic disposition” that he puts on to protect himself and prevent his antagonists from plucking out the heart of his mystery. When Hamlet enters his mother’s room, he holds up, side by side, the pictures of the two kings, Old Hamlet and Claudius, and proceeds to describe for her the true nature of the choice she has made, presenting truth by means of a show. Similarly, when he leaps into the open grave at Ophelia’s funeral, ranting in high heroic terms, he is acting out for Laertes, and perhaps for himself as well, the folly of excessive, melodramatic expressions of grief.
Some Examples

#1

Comments

Aside from an opening sentence loosely adapted from the original and reworded more simply, this entire passage is taken almost word-for-word from the source. The few small alterations of the source do not relieve the writer of the responsibility to attribute these words to their original author, Alvin Kernan.

Princeton University (http://www.princeton.edu/pr/pub/integrity/08/plagiarism/)
Some Examples

#2

Original source (text)
From time to time this submerged or latent theater in Hamlet becomes almost overt. It is close to the surface in Hamlet’s pretense of madness, the “antic disposition” he puts on to protect himself and prevent his antagonists from plucking out the heart of his mystery. It is even closer to the surface when Hamlet enters his mother’s room and holds up, side by side, the pictures of the two kings, Old Hamlet and Claudius, and proceeds to describe for her the true nature of the choice she has made, presenting truth by means of a show. Similarly, when he leaps into the open grave at Ophelia’s funeral, ranting in high heroic terms, he is acting out for Laertes, and perhaps for himself as well, the folly of excessive, melodramatic expressions of grief.

Lifting selected passages and phrases without proper acknowledgment (lifted passages are in black, red, and green)
Almost all of Shakespeare’s Hamlet can be understood as a play about acting and the theater. For example, in Act 1, Hamlet adopts a pretense of madness that he uses to protect himself and prevent his antagonists from discovering his mission to revenge his father’s murder. He also presents truth by means of a show when he compares the portraits of Gertrude’s two husbands in order to describe for her the true nature of the choice she has made. And when he leaps in Ophelia’s open grave ranting in high heroic terms, Hamlet is acting out the folly of excessive, melodramatic expressions of grief.
Some Examples

#2

Comments

This passage, in content and structure, is taken wholesale from the source. Although the writer has rewritten much of the paragraph, and fewer phrases are lifted verbatim from the source, this is a clear example of plagiarism. Inserting even short phrases from the source into a new sentence still requires placing quotations around the borrowed words and citing the author. If even one phrase is good enough to borrow, it must be properly set off by quotation marks. In the case above, if the writer had rewritten the entire paragraph and used only Alvin Kernan’s phrase “high heroic terms” without properly quoting and acknowledging its source, the writer would have plagiarized.
Some Examples

#3

Original source (text)

From time to time this submerged or latent theater in Hamlet becomes almost overt. It is close to the surface in Hamlet’s pretense of madness, the “antic disposition” he puts on to protect himself and prevent his antagonists from plucking out the heart of his mystery. It is even closer to the surface when Hamlet enters his mother’s room and holds up, side by side, the pictures of the two kings, Old Hamlet and Claudius, and proceeds to describe for her the true nature of the choice she has made, presenting truth by means of a show. Similarly, when he leaps into the open grave at Ophelia’s funeral, ranting in high heroic terms, he is acting out for Laertes, and perhaps for himself as well, the folly of excessive, melodramatic expressions of grief.

Paraphrasing the text while maintaining the basic paragraph and sentence structure

Almost all of Shakespeare’s Hamlet can be understood as a play about acting and the theater. For example, in Act 1, Hamlet pretends to be insane in order to make sure his enemies do not discover his mission to revenge his father’s murder. The theme is even more obvious when Hamlet compares the pictures of his mother’s two husbands to show her what a bad choice she has made, using their images to reveal the truth. Also, when he jumps into Ophelia’s grave, hurling his challenge to Laertes, Hamlet demonstrates the foolishness of exaggerated expressions of emotion.

Princeton University (http://www.princeton.edu/pr/pub/integrity/08/plagiarism/)
Comments

Almost nothing of Kernan’s original language remains in this rewritten paragraph. However, the key idea, the choice and order of the examples, and even the basic structure of the original sentences are all taken from the source. This is another clear example of plagiarism. When paraphrasing, it’s absolutely necessary (1) to use your own words and structure, and (2) to place a citation at the end of the paraphrase to acknowledge that the content is not original.
Some Examples
#4 (Improper Paraphrasing)

ORIGINAL text, from page 1 of *Lizzie Borden: A Case Book of Family and Crime in the 1890s* by Joyce Williams et al.:

The *rise* of industry, the *growth* of cities, and the *expansion* of the population were the three great developments of late nineteenth century American history. As new, larger, steam–powered factories became a feature of the American landscape in the East, they transformed farm hands into *industrial laborers*, and provided jobs for a *rising tide* of immigrants. With industry came *urbanization* the growth of large cities (like Fall River, Massachusetts, where the Bordens lived) which *became* the centers of *production* as well as of *commerce and trade*.

UNACCEPTABLE paraphrase that is plagiarism:

The *increase* of industry, the *growth* of cities, and the *explosion* of the population were three large factors of nineteenth century America. As steam–driven companies became more visible in the eastern part of the country, they changed farm hands into *factory workers* and provided jobs for the *large wave* of immigrants. With industry came the growth of large cities like Fall River where the Bordens lived which *turned into* centers of *commerce and trade* as well as *production*.

Indiana University, Writing Tutorial Services
(http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml)
Some Examples

#4 (Improper Paraphrasing)

Comments

The preceding passage is considered plagiarism for two reasons:

1. The writer has only changed around a few words and phrases, or changed the order of the original writer’s sentences.

2. the writer has failed to cite a source for any of the ideas or facts.

The preceding passage is also problematic because it changes the sense of several sentences (for example, "steam-driven companies" in sentence two misses the original writer’s emphasis on factories).

Indiana University, Writing Tutorial Services
(http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml)
The rise of industry, the growth of cities, and the expansion of the population were the three great developments of late nineteenth century American history. As new, larger, steam-powered factories became a feature of the American landscape in the East, they transformed farm hands into industrial laborers, and provided jobs for a rising tide of immigrants. With industry came urbanization the growth of large cities (like Fall River, Massachusetts, where the Bordens lived) which became the centers of production as well as of commerce and trade.

ACCEPTABLE paraphrase:

Fall River, where the Borden family lived, was typical of northeastern industrial cities of the nineteenth century. Steam-powered production had shifted labor from agriculture to manufacturing, and as immigrants arrived in the US, they found work in these new factories. As a result, populations grew, and large urban areas arose. Fall River was one of these manufacturing and commercial centers (Williams et al., 1981, p. 1).
This is acceptable paraphrasing because the writer accurately relays the information in the original text version using his/her own words, and lets the reader know the source of his/her information.
Concluding Thought

“Learning how to use sources is one of the most important things you will learn in college. By using sources well and by clearly indicating your debts to these sources, your writing gains authority, clarity, and precision.... So long as you are scrupulous about indicating material you have quoted and immediate borrowings you’ve made in paraphrases, you will not be suspected or guilty of plagiarism.”

1. Copying and pasting a paragraph of text from a web site without enclosing it in quotation marks and referencing the source.
Test Your Knowledge


1. Copying and pasting a paragraph of text from a web site without enclosing it in quotation marks and referencing the source.

Yes. This is probably the most well known form of plagiarism. When you copy the exact words from another source you must enclose them in the quotation marks and provide a reference.
2. Using the ideas of another author without providing a reference, even if you write them in your own words.
2. Using the ideas of another author without providing a reference, even if you write them in your own words.

Yes. Even if you do not directly copy the author’s words you must provide a reference when you talk about their ideas.
3. Claim work produced by another student as your own.
3. Claim work produced by another student as your own.

**Yes.** This is a form of plagiarism. Buying, stealing or copying a paper to produce your work is plagiarism. Collaborating with another student (unless instructed by your professor) is also plagiarism.
Test Your Knowledge


4. Copy a diagram or data table from a web site, providing a reference for the source underneath.
4. Copy a diagram or data table from a website, providing a reference for the source underneath.

**No.** You can include a table, diagram or image from another source as long as you provide a reference.
5. Submit all or part of one paper for two separate assignments.
5. Submit all or part of one paper for two separate assignments.

**Yes.** Self-plagiarism is a form of plagiarism.
Test Your Knowledge


6. Copy words from a book into your own work, but place quotation marks around them and provide a citation.
6. Copy words from a book into your own work, but place quotation marks around them and provide a citation.

No. It is not plagiarism to copy words from another source as long as you place them in quotation marks and provide a reference.
Test Your Knowledge


7. Include a fact or saying in your assignment which is generally known without providing a reference.
7. Include a fact or saying in your assignment which is generally known without providing a reference.

**No.** If a fact is generally well known or ‘common knowledge’ then you don’t need to reference it.

(What you may consider to be common knowledge may not be well known by others. If in doubt, provide a reference)
8. Incorporate text from another source, changing one or two words and providing a citation.
8. Incorporate text from another source, changing one or two words and providing a citation.

Yes. If you do not intend to quote directly from the source, you must write about it in your own words. Using too many words from the original source is plagiarism, even if you provide a reference.
Resources

- Cardiff University (https://ilrb.cf.ac.uk/plagiarism/tutorial/index.html)
- Plagiarism.org (http://www.plagiarism.org)
- Princeton University (http://www.princeton.edu/pr/pub/integrity/08/intro/index.htm)
- Purdue University, Owl Online Writing Lab (http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/02)
- San Jose State University (http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/tutorial/plagiarism/tutorial/selector.htm)
- Turnitin.com (http://turnitin.com)