

Plagiarism Q&A

WHAT IS PLAGIARISM?

One HUGE misconception that students have is that rewriting something is not plagiarism, because they are “putting it in their own words.” Well, if the source is not officially acknowledged, IT IS PLAGIARISM. Copying and pasting actually accounts for only a small percentage of plagiarism. The majority of plagiarism is a result of text manipulation. The accessibility of the Internet makes plagiarism very tempting, and unintentional plagiarism springs from this as well. Simply stated, plagiarism is using someone’s work without giving the appropriate credit. This can mean several things...

1. Copying and pasting text from on-line media, such as encyclopedias is plagiarism.
2. Copying and pasting text from any web site is plagiarism.
3. Transcribing text from any printed material, such as books, magazines, encyclopedias or newspapers, is plagiarism.
4. Simply modifying text from any of the above sources is plagiarism.
 - a. For example, replacing a few select words using a Thesaurus does not constitute original work.
5. Using photographs, video or audio without permission or acknowledgment is plagiarism.
 - a. You may use such a photographic, video or audio source with or in a paper or multimedia presentation that you create, as long as you do not profit from it or use it for any purpose other than the original assignment. You must include the source in your bibliography.
6. Using another student’s work and claiming it as your own, *even with permission*, is academically unethical and is treated as plagiarism. This is known as “collusion” and is bad. Very bad...
7. Acquiring work from commercial sources is academically unethical and is treated as plagiarism.
8. Translation from one language to another is not using your own words. Translations fall under the guidelines for quotations, summaries and paraphrasing.
9. Using an essay that you wrote for another class/another purpose without getting permission from the teacher/professor of both the current class and the class for which the original work was used is SELF-PLAGIARISM and is basis for consequence or penalty. I am sure this seems ridiculous to some of you, but that is how it is. Sorry about your luck! Do something original and put forth some effort why don’t you?!?! You may use your previous work as a basis for new research of course, but include the original work in your bibliography.

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