



The Perils of Plagiarism

What is it?

PLAGIARISM IS
using other authors' words and ideas in your writing without giving them credit.



Don't:

- cut and paste from on-line sources
- use another student's work as your own
- just change a few words from any source for your paper
- turn in a paper you wrote for another class

Why Shouldn't I?

Plagiarism is a serious offense and can lead to failing grades or suspension from school.

How Can I Avoid It? (To cite or not to cite)

1. Always develop a Working Bibliography and a Works Cited list.
2. Use quotation marks when you record the author's exact words.
3. Credit an author's new findings, interpretations, or point of view with in-text citations (name and page number within the text of your paper).
4. Common knowledge does not need in-text citations but must be written in your own words. Just list the source in your working bibliography.

Remember!

- Document all notefacts with source and page number.
- Vary your sources. It's hard to copy from a video, interview, experiment, museum display. . .
- Skim a text for relevant information before taking notefacts.
- After reading a passage, close the book and write what you learned in your own words.
- Photocopy an article, and highlight key words and phrases before writing notefacts.
- Notefacts shouldn't be complete sentences. Cross out unnecessary words.

Need More Help?

Try:

- *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*
- *The Research Paper Handbook*
- www.plagiarism.com
- www.psych.ufl.edu/~levy/plagiarz.htm
- www.ehhs.cmich.edu/~mspears/plagiarism.html
- Enter "plagiarism" into your favorite search engine



Just Say "No" to Plagiarism!