

Academic Dishonesty: Plagiarism

What is plagiarism?

Plagiarism means the act of intentionally or unintentionally trying to pass off someone else's words, ideas or images as your own. When referring to others' ideas, you must give proper credit. Without doing this, you are stealing. Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty and it is wrong.

Is plagiarism a big problem?

In the age of the Internet, it has become increasingly easy just to copy and paste others' work. Plagiarism existed before the Internet, of course, but having to copy by hand took more effort.

Why NOT plagiarize?

- Plagiarism is dishonest and illegal: stealing an idea is as bad as stealing a thing
- People who plagiarize fail to learn. Learning how to research and learning through research is very powerful: stealing ideas means you've missed the opportunity to learn.
- Students who submit plagiarized work may expect a mark of zero, and face other serious consequences

Why do people plagiarize?

Knowledge Reasons	Work Habits Reasons
<p>People who plagiarize often:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ don't understand what plagiarism is, and why it is wrong➤ don't understand how to take effective, concise notes➤ have difficulty summarizing information effectively➤ have difficulty distinguishing descriptive language or opinion from facts➤ don't know how to cite sources properly	<p>People who plagiarize often:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ have difficulty managing time, and end up completing work at the last minute➤ don't make a work plan, or don't stick to the plan they've made➤ experience difficulty handling stress and competition, and choose to handle these by cheating➤ don't value their own opinions and abilities

Avoiding Plagiarism

As you research and write, follow these guidelines:

- ✓ Take careful and concise notes
- ✓ Pay attention to language: distinguish between factual information and opinion, descriptive language or metaphors
- ✓ Accurately record your sources
- ✓ Accurately record quotations and paraphrased information, and identify (cite) the source
- ✓ Record your own thoughts and ideas as you research
- ✓ Give yourself time to research thoroughly and complete the requirements of your assignment

What kinds of things must I cite?

You must acknowledge:	You don't need to acknowledge:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Direct quotes• Paraphrased information or ideas• Specialized information• Statistics• Images, Charts, Graphs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Well-known dates (e.g., Confederation took place in 1867)• Simple definitions• Commonly known facts (e.g., Canada's capital city is Ottawa)

What are other forms of academic dishonesty?

The following offenses are as serious as plagiarism, and have similar consequences:

- Buying an essay
- Submitting an assignment that you have already used for another teacher or course
- Borrowing someone else's work

Have a look at these sites about plagiarism:

You Quote It, You Note It! – an interactive, multimedia tutorial from Acadia University Library:
<http://library.acadiau.ca/tutorials/plagiarism/>

Tips for avoiding plagiarism, from Purdue University's Online Writing Lab (OWL):
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_plagiar.html

Visit your school library website for more information on academic honesty, avoiding plagiarism, and citing sources.