

PLAGIARISM

What is it?

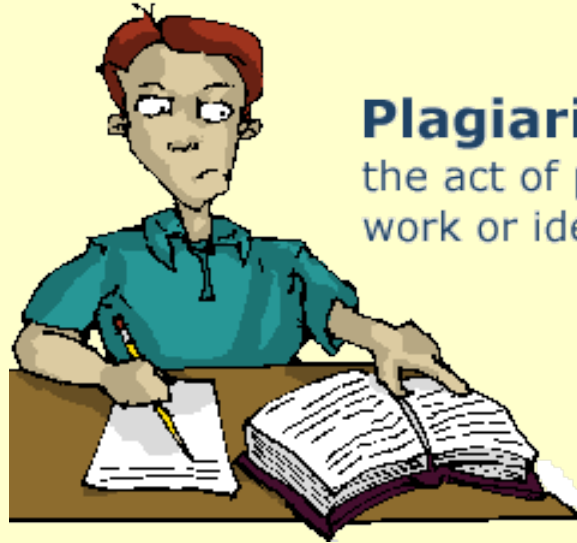
Why is it important to me?

How can I avoid it? (Or, did my third grade teacher
lie to me?)

References for more information.

Presentation by Joyce A. Brannan, Technical Services Librarian, Julia Tutwiler Library, University of West Alabama, Livingston, Alabama.

The simplest definition of plagiarism:



Plagiarism:

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

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”

Did You Know? The word plagiarism comes from the Latin plagiarius meaning "kidnapper"

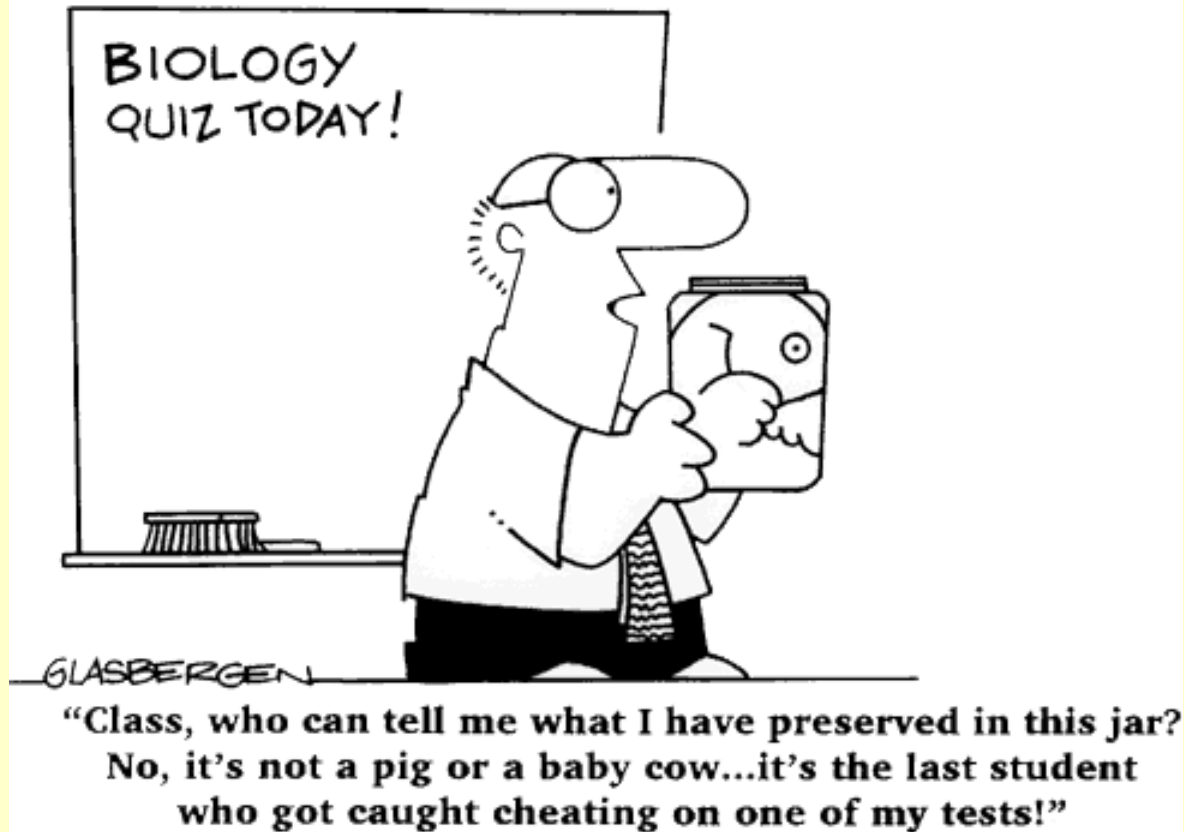


San Jose State University, Plagiarism Tutorial,
<http://130.65.109.143/plagiarism/tutorial/introduction.php>.

Why is plagiarism important? Who *really* cares?

- Plagiarism is **theft** of intellectual property.
- Plagiarism is **cheating**.
- Plagiarism may result in receiving an '**F**' or **zero** for the assignment.
- Refer to the Middle School Handbook.

Copyright 1996 Randy Glasbergen. www.glasbergen.com



Eastern Kentucky University, From *Today's Cartoon* by Randy Glasbergen,
<http://www.acts.eku.edu/cartoon/more.htm>.

▪Possibly the **most important reason** to not plagiarize is that it robs you of the educational experiences involved in research, thinking, and writing. One of the main purposes of higher education is to learn to do research, to help expand thought processes, to improve writing skills, and to learn to prepare presentations. Taking credit for someone else's work hurts you most of all.

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



Carnegie Mellon University, Enhancing Education, "Plagiarism and the Web."

<http://www.cmu.edu/teaching/resources/plagiarism.html>.

Alive or dead, it does not matter. If it is not your own idea, you must cite your source!!



Falan Dafa Clearwisdom.net, English version of Minghui.org,
<http://clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2002/12/20/29964.html>.

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

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.

Do you know how to paraphrase correctly?

Paraphrasing is more than simply rewording the original material!

It must be almost entirely in your own words. You must use new synonyms and new phrases. Only technical terms should be repeated.

Any exact words that are retained should have quotation marks around them.

The sentence structure should be yours, not the same as in the source.

Do not add ideas, interpretations, explanations, or assessments.

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.

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.

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.



"Plagiarism?" But my roommate gave me permission to use his paper and said I didn't have to cite him.

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.

Did you notice that 'roommate' is spelled incorrectly on the previous slide?

What about all that “free” stuff people put on the web? Can you use that?

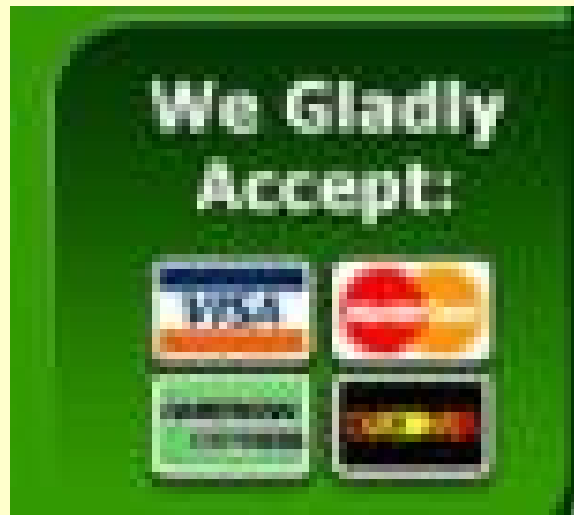


Kraft Foods, http://web.kraftfoods.com/koolaid/2001/ka_free_stuff.html.

No. Free means economically free, you do not have to pay for it. The “free” stuff has a specific use and can only be used free for the intended use. If you use the words, graphics, or ideas, you must give a citation.

There are many sites that will sell you an essay or term paper. Presenting this material as your own is plagiarism. Some of the papers for sale sites do have disclaimers saying that you must cite their work.

REMEMBER, IF YOU CAN FIND IT, SO CAN YOUR PROFESSOR!



Essays on D. H. Lawrence, <http://www.essays-on-dh-lawrence.com>.



"To respond to the charges: Yes, much of last week's sermon was lifted from Scripture, and no, I don't consider that plagiarism."

Peter's Progress, Cliff and Jeanie Peters

<http://www.cjpeters.com/Progress/Sep2003/sep2003.htm>.

Is the Reverend incorrect? Did he plagiarize?

Probably not.

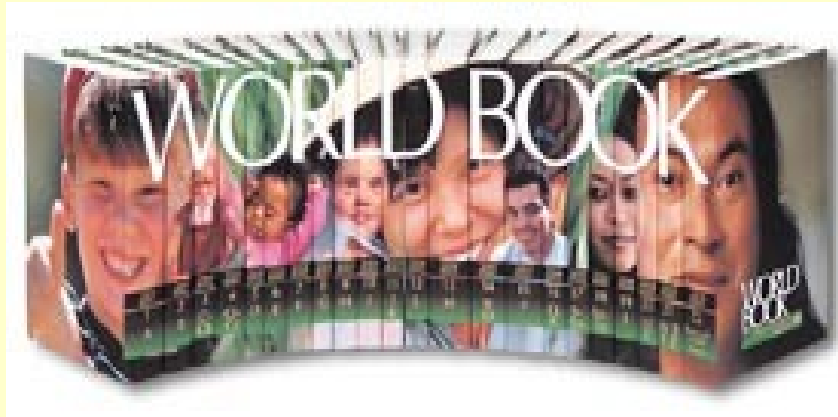
If he said, “According to the Bible . . .,” then he did not plagiarize.

However, if he claimed the words as his own, he did plagiarize.
However, he would not be guilty of a copyright violation.

The lectures by our professors are protected by copyright laws. If you use their ideas, you must give them credit. To not do so is plagiarism!



“Plagiarism and Cheating,” skills4study, Palgrave, Macmillan.
http://www.palgrave.com/skills4study/html/reading_writing/plagiarism.htm.



Sometime in elementary school you may have been told that if your information comes from an encyclopedia or a dictionary it is common knowledge and does not need to be cited. That is a MAYBE. What is common knowledge?

Common knowledge consists of:

- Information that is **easily observed** – the sky is blue, but not a detailed explanation of why the sky is blue.
- Commonly reported facts** – George Washington was the first president of the United States, but not the information that historians have to say about Washington.
- Common sayings** such as proverbs – “Waste not, want not;” “Look before you leap.”

Common knowledge does not need to be cited, but be sure that what you are using really is common knowledge. When in doubt ask either your instructor or a librarian.

HOW TO CITE

Always ask your professor what citation style you should use!

The three most commonly used citation styles at The University of West Alabama are MLA, APA, and Turabian. There are other styles that may be used in science, music, medicine, and law.

MLA, The Modern Language Association. This style is commonly used in the fields of language and literature.

**WHEN IN DOUBT, USE A
CITATION!!**

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.

“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/PlagiarismCa>. 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.



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