

Week 1: Introduction to Academic Writing

Lesson 3: Originality, Integrity, and Plagiarism in Academic Writing

Course Video 3: Respecting Intellectual Property Rights

Transcript

Hello everyone, welcome to this video. In this video, we'll talk about respecting intellectual property rights in academic writing. So how do we respect intellectual property rights? When you are writing, you need to think about intellectual property rights of the author who has created the material that you are referring to or you are using in your academic writing. You know that you have laws, you have conventions of academic writing in which you follow certain referencing styles, citation style. If you do that, then you are respecting intellectual property rights. If you do that, then you are avoiding academic theft, which is a serious crime and which is a problem for the entire academia. Now, if you do that, then what you are doing, you are admitting the information source from which you have got information, got ideas, got words and phrases probably and used in your own work. And that next step is, that actually is kind of easy access to source materials for the reader. Somebody who is reading your work will have access to those original sources. If they want to revisit and check, they can do that. That is why it is important to cite properly. And if you do that, then what you are doing, you are avoiding plagiarism too. Nobody can accuse you of plagiarism if you respect intellectual property rights. They can do that by following the conventions of citations, the referencing styles and paraphrasing properly, summarizing properly, giving proper details and accurate details about the original creators or intellectual property rights, holders, names and other details. Then the next thing is, how do we provide credit? The thing is that what you can do is ethical, this is a kind of ethical practice and that requires first appropriate paraphrasing, that requires reading a piece of text and understanding the meaning of it. If you understand the meaning clearly, then you will be able to change the words and phrases, word class, position of the words, so you can paraphrase well. And if you paraphrase well, you are ethical in your practice. Next one is, you need to effectively summarize the content, that means if somebody is citing, if somebody has written in one page and you want to cite them, and you want to present the same thing in one or two lines, you need to be sure about how well they have written. And that you can do once again, if you are able to read and understand a piece of text reading well. So, it is necessary for you to improve your reading habit and improve your comprehension skills, reading comprehension skills. Next one, quoting accurately. Even if you quote somebody, you need to quote them accurately. If you are using their words, same words and phrases that are there in the original source, and the page number, and the year, and their surname, everything, all these things are to be presented accurately, correctly. Next correct citations, it is related to quotations, when you are citing them, follow the conventions of that particular style sheet, if you are following, let us say, American Psychological Association style sheet, cite them correctly, follow the norms strictly. Next one is thinking about correct reference list or bibliography, arranging them in the right order, following their referencing style, so that it is accessible and it is correct. Next one is prior written permission for the use of copyrighted materials. You know that if you are using an image, if you are using a video clip, audio clip, or

let us say 400 or 500 words from something, a piece of a lyric or a song or something like that, you need permission. If you are using an image, a graph, chart or diagram, you need written permission from the person who created this, from the publisher who published this, so do that, and then all these things put together will make ethical practice. And there are several points you need to note, you need to keep in mind, and the first one is copyrights cover the use of figures, data, even this, once again, any image you are using can be copyrighted, just check whether this is copyright free, whether you need written permission from the author, same with the data, same with images, same with charts, graphs, lot of things, and then when you are using material, check whether they need you to ask for permission, seek their permission before you use, or you can use just by citing them, whichever is allowed. And think about copyright laws in the country from where the content was produced, if it is produced in America, they have strict copyright laws, and if it is produced in third world countries or developing countries like India and China, the laws could be slightly less rigorous. So, think about the copyright laws of that country. Next one that you follow the copyright laws of that region, when you are using materials and for your own writing, if you are doing that, then think about copyright laws, respect copyright laws, read carefully and know about those laws. The last one is when you are deciding, check the laws properly, if you check the laws, you are aware what you can do, what you cannot do, if you know that, then you are safe. This video, we talked about copyright laws and how to respect copyright laws in academic writing, what are the things for which you need permission and how to seek permission, what you need to do, what are the things you need to take into account when you are dealing with copyrighted material. Thank you.