

Week 1: Introduction to Academic Writing

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

Course Video 2: Plagiarism in Academic Writing

Study Notes

Study Notes: Plagiarism in Academic Writing

1. What is Plagiarism?

Plagiarism refers to **copying someone else's work without giving credit**.

It includes:

- Using someone's ideas, words, or information without acknowledgement.
- Presenting published or unpublished work as your own.
- Copying from print, electronic sources, images, graphs, tables, audio/video, etc.

Simple Definition

Taking someone's content and claiming it as your own.

Not giving credit to the original creator.

2. Materials That Can Be Plagiarized

Plagiarism applies to multiple formats:

- Published and unpublished work
 - Printed or digital material
 - Images, graphs, charts, tables
 - Poems, lyrics
 - Audio/visual clips
 - Movies
 - Internet content (even if free)
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3. Types of Plagiarism

A. Intentional vs. Unintentional Plagiarism

- **Intentional:** You know the rules but still copy

- **Unintentional:** You copy because you do not understand copyright or citation rules
(*Example: Downloading movies without knowing about copyright laws*)

B. Paraphrasing-Related Plagiarism

- Poor paraphrasing (too similar to original text)
- Mixing copied words + paraphrased words
- Not citing the original source after paraphrasing

C. Verbatim & Long Quotations

- Copying text **word-for-word**
- Using long quotations even *with* citation
- Taking pages from a book and citing only once

D. Self-Plagiarism (Auto-Plagiarism)

- Reusing your own previously published work
- Copy-pasting your own content into a new assignment/paper

E. Using Professional Agency Content

- Downloading ready-made essays or content from online agencies
- Using blog content or outsourced writing without permission

F. Collusion

- Working together secretly to cheat or plagiarize
- Group planning of copying content in assignments
(*Considered a serious academic offence*)

4. Why Plagiarism Is a Serious Issue

- Damages academic integrity
- Leads to loss of reputation, jobs, academic penalties
- Consequences vary by country, but plagiarism is unacceptable everywhere

5. How to Avoid Plagiarism

1. Learn Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

Understand:

- What you can use

- What requires permission
- What must be cited

2. Master Paraphrasing & Summarizing

- Read → Understand → Write in your own words
- Maintain original meaning
- Always cite the source

3. Know Referencing Styles

Familiarize yourself with:

- **APA**
- **MLA**
- **Chicago**
- Other discipline-specific formats

4. Cite Sources Accurately

- Mention correct publication year
- Provide page numbers (if required by style)
- Follow the chosen style consistently

5. Keep Track of All Sources

- Maintain a reference list while researching
- Use reference managers (Zotero, Mendeley, EndNote)

6. Know Quotation Norms

- How long quotations can be
- When to use block quotes
- How to format them

7. Create Academic Work Independently

- Think originally
- Engage with content deeply
- Write using your interpretation

6. Summary

Plagiarism means using someone else's work without giving credit. It can be intentional or unintentional and includes copying words, ideas, images, videos, and even your own previously published work. To avoid plagiarism, you must master paraphrasing, understand citation norms, know intellectual property rights, use proper referencing styles, and develop original writing habits.
