What's the difference between plagiarism and copyright infringement?

	Plagiarism	Copyright Infringement
What is it?	Plagiarism occurs when you use someone else's words or ideas without giving credit to the original author.	Copyright infringement can occur if you infringe on the exclusive rights given to an author/creator. Those five rights are: • Reproduce or make copies of the work • Distribute copies of the work • Create a derivative work • Display the work publicly • Perform the work publicly
What rules govern it?	Academic and other institutions often follow ethical codes regarding academic integrity which prohibit plagiarism and other misconduct.	Copyright and penalties for copyright infringement are governed by federal and, in some instances, state law.
Who enforces the rules?	Instructors, academic units, and institutions as a whole may enforce a variety of penalties for plagiarism. At OSU, alleged infractions are referred to the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) for investigation and disciplinary action.	A copyright owner or his/her authorized agent may bring a claim of copyright infringement. Claims of copyright infringement may be settled in or out of court between the copyright owner and the alleged infringer. An expensive lawsuit could result, where a judge or jury determines whether infringement has occurred and if so, what the penalty will be.
How can I avoid it?	Use quotation marks and ellipses when quoting directly from another source. When you summarize or paraphrase material, re-state it in your own words. Whether quoting or paraphrasing, always credit the source! Contact the Writing Center at OSU for assistance and/or ask your instructor to review your assignment before turning it in if you have questions or concerns about plagiarism.	There are many options for using copyrighted material without infringing: • Determine if your use falls under a statutory exception, such as Fair Use • Comply with existing license terms or terms of use if available • Request permission from the copyright owner to use the work

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Resources

• Copyright Basics from the Copyright Resources Center at University Libraries: **go.osu.edu/copyrightbasics**

• Plagiarism info from the OSU Center for the Study and Teaching of Writing: **go.osu.edu/plagiarism**

• Get help with your writing at the Writing Center at OSU: **cstw.osu.edu/writing-center**

• Video on Academic Misconduct and Plagiarism at OSU: **go.osu.edu/plagiarism-video**

Contact

The Copyright Resources Center at University Libraries
Thompson Library, Suite 350
1858 Neil Ave.
Columbus, OH 43210

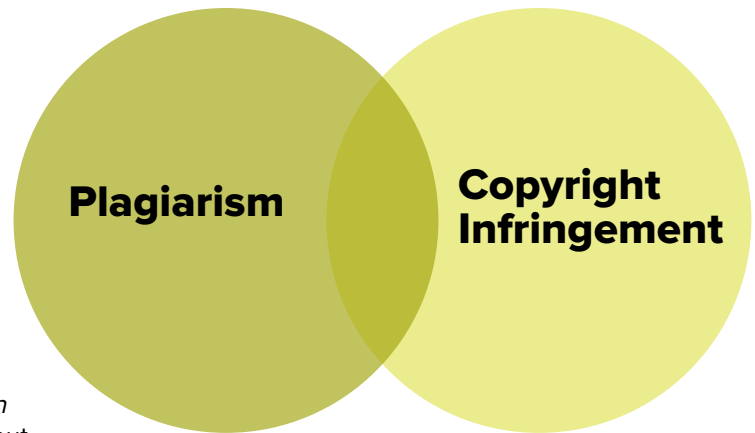**Phone:** (614) 688-5849
Email: libcopyright@osu.edu
Website: go.osu.edu/copyright

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Plagiarism and Copyright Infringement

Plagiarism and copyright infringement are not the same. You can plagiarize without infringing copyright, and you can infringe copyright without plagiarizing. Although they are two separate concepts, plagiarism and copyright infringement can occur at the same time.

Example: Plagiarism, NOT copyright infringement

You copy a few sentences word for word from *On the Origin of Species* by Charles Darwin for your report on evolution, but you do not cite the original work or acknowledge the author. This is plagiarism because you have presented someone else's work as your own. However, it is not copyright infringement because the copyright term for *On the Origin of Species* has expired; this means that the work is in the public domain and is no longer protected by copyright.

Example: Copyright infringement, NOT plagiarism

You create a website to provide information to the public on an important topic. To make your material more engaging, you search the internet for decorative or funny images and include at least one image on every page of your site. You are careful to cite the source of each image. This is not plagiarism because you have properly cited the source of each image. However, this could be considered copyright infringement because materials found online are protected by copyright even if they are not accompanied by a copyright notice, and you are reproducing and distributing copies (two of the ***exclusive rights** of rights holders) of a protected work without permission (and no ****statutory exception** applies). You can avoid copyright infringement in this situation by using images that are in the public domain or licensed for your use (such as Creative Commons licensed materials).

Example: Both plagiarism AND copyright infringement

You post a recently published short story by your favorite author to your blog, and claim that you wrote it yourself. This is plagiarism because you are using someone else's work without giving them credit, and it is copyright infringement because you are reproducing and distributing copies (two of the ***exclusive rights** of rights holders) of a protected work without permission (and no **statutory exception applies).

Example: Neither plagiarism NOR copyright infringement

You include several short quotes from scholarly articles in your research paper and you include citation information for each source. This is not plagiarism as you have clearly identified third party material in your report by using quotation marks and providing citations to the original sources. This is also not copyright infringement because the use of short quotes in research is a widely accepted example of Fair Use: a ****statutory exception** included in U.S. Copyright Law.

Plagiarism · Copyright Infringement

*Exclusive rights:
Copyright grants five exclusive rights to the creator of a work. Those five rights are:

- Reproduce or make copies of the work
- Distribute copies of the work
- Create a derivative work
- Display the work publicly
- Perform the work publicly
- Publicly perform sound recordings by means of digital audio transmission

**Statutory exceptions:
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