

"Plagiarism is the wrongful appropriation and purloining and publication of another author's language, thoughts, ideas, or expressions, and the representation of them as one's own original work."

- Wikipedia



Plagiarism is such a dirty word, you spend your entire life hearing about how bad it is and all of the awful things that happen if you do it. In reality, your entire educational career is founded on some form of plagiarism. All of your research papers and presentation involve



information that you learned from somewhere else. While directly copying someone else's work can land you in some serious trouble, paraphrasing and citing your sources will end up saving your life someday.

Quick Examples of Plagiarizing

Failing to put a quotation in quotation marks.

Giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation.

Claiming someone else's work as your own.

Changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit.

Copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit.

Having the majority of your work come from a specific source, whether you give credit or not.

Misplacing a citation in your work.

CONSEQUENCES OF PLAGIARIZING

Plagiarizing is a very serious situation so before we get into safely using copyrighted works, let's go through some things that might happen if you directly copy another's work.



Expulsion

Almost every school from high school to college has zero tolerance for plagiarism.



Court

Stealing someone else's work is called copyright infringement and depending on the circumstances you might end up in front of a judge and jury.



Fines

Infringement penalties are very harsh, fines can be anywhere from \$500 to \$150,000 for each act of willful infringement.

WHAT IS COPYRIGHTED?

The seven categories that copyright law covers are:



Literary works

Both fiction and nonfiction, including books, periodicals, manuscripts, computer programs, manuals, phonorecords, film, audiotapes, and computer disks.



Musical works

and accompanying words, songs, operas, and musical plays.



Dramatic works

Including music, plays, and dramatic readings



Pantomimed and choreographed works

Like dances or routines in shows.



Pictorial, graphics, and sculptural works

Final and applied arts, photographs, prints and art reproductions, maps, globes, charts, technical drawings, diagrams, and models.



Motion pictures and audiovisual works

Slide/tape, multimedia presentations, filmstrips, films, and videos.



Sound Recordings

Tapes, cassettes, and computer disks.

FAIR USE

There are some sources that you can copy from without having to cite. This method of copyrighting is called fair use. There is a large gray area for which works fall under fair use, though.

Here are a couple examples of things that are free to use:



Works that lack originality (phone books).

Works in the public domain.

- The public domain contains creative works that aren't protected by any copyrights and may be freely used by anyone.

- Works end up in the public domain because:

The copyright for that work has expired.

The author failed to copyright their work.

The work is owned by the Government.

Any work published on or before December 31, 1922

Freeware - Software found online that the author has chosen to make available to anyone without any restrictions

Commonly known facts

Ideas, processes, methods, and systems described in copyrighted works.

TEACHERS AND EDUCATORS

Using copyrighted works for educational purposes such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, scholarship, and research also fall under fair use.

These four standards determine if a work is being used educationally:



Purpose of use:

Copying and using selected parts of copyrighted works for specific educational purposes qualifies as fair use, especially if the copies are made spontaneously, are used temporarily, and are not part of an anthology.

Nature of the work:

For copying paragraphs from a copyrighted source, fair use easily applies. For copying a chapter, fair use may be questionable.

Proportion/extent of the material used:

Duplicating excerpts that are short in relation to the entire copyrighted work or segments that do not reflect the "essence" of the work is usually considered fair use.

The effect on marketability:

If there will be no reduction in sales because of copying or distribution, the fair use exemption is likely to apply. This is the most important of the four tests for fair use.

USING COPYRIGHTED WORKS SAFELY

WORKS CITED

An easy and foolproof way to safely use someone else's work is to cite all of your sources and quotations and then include a works cited at the end of your work. In a nutshell, your works cited is a brief description of where you got your quote. It includes information like the author's name, the work you used, the publisher, the date their work was created, and so on.

The most popular examples of citation formats are as follows:

APA (American Psychological Association)

Example

Zabar, A. (1989). . New York, NY: Stewart, Tabori, & Chang, Inc.

CSE (Council of Science Editors)

Example

Muir, J, Armstrong L, Hillary E. 1998. Exploring San Luis Obispo and nearby areas: a guide to biking and hiking on the Central Coast. San Luis Obispo, (CA): SLO Going Press. 224 p.

MLA (Modern Language Association)

Example

Hoffa, James. Solid Cement Mortuary Designs. New York: East River Press, 2009. Print.

Chicago

Example

Pollan, Michael. The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals. New York: Penguin, 2006.

The examples given above were citing books only. Citing works in medias other than printed in a book will look different but will follow the same structure.

PARENTHETICAL CITATIONS

Parenthetical Citations are used in the middle of your work and are placed directly after a quotation. They refer to your works cited by briefly indicating which source that specific quotation came from.

Example:

The St. Martin's Handbook defines plagiarism as "the use of someone else's words or ideas as [the writer's] own without crediting the other person" (Lunsford and Connors 602).

Lunsford, Andrea, and Robert Connors. St. Martin's Handbook. 3rd. ed. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1995.

As you can see, the parenthetical citation always comes directly after the quoted material. It can contain the author's name, the page number from where the quote came from, or both.

PARAPHRASING

Paraphrasing is when you take in an outside source's information and put it into your work using your own words. All of the information will stay the same, but the sentence structure will change. Even though you aren't directly copying the author, you are using their information so you still must cite them.

Example:

Original work "But Frida's outlook was vastly different from that of the Surrealists." (258)

Paraphrase As Herrera explains, Frida's surrealist vision was unlike that of the European Surrealists. (258)

Hayden Herrera, *Frida: A Biography of Frida Kahlo* (258)



Because paraphrases don't quote the author directly and they are your own words, they do not need quotation marks.