

# **BLG 374E**

## **Technical Communication for Computer Engineers**

### **Week 7**

### **Plagiarism**

Quiz at 12:15 pm  
[ayva.itu.edu.tr](http://ayva.itu.edu.tr)

# Lecture Notes

I'll be using lecture notes prepared by earlier instructors, including Esbie van Heerden, Damien Jade Duff, and probably others (though I may revise them).



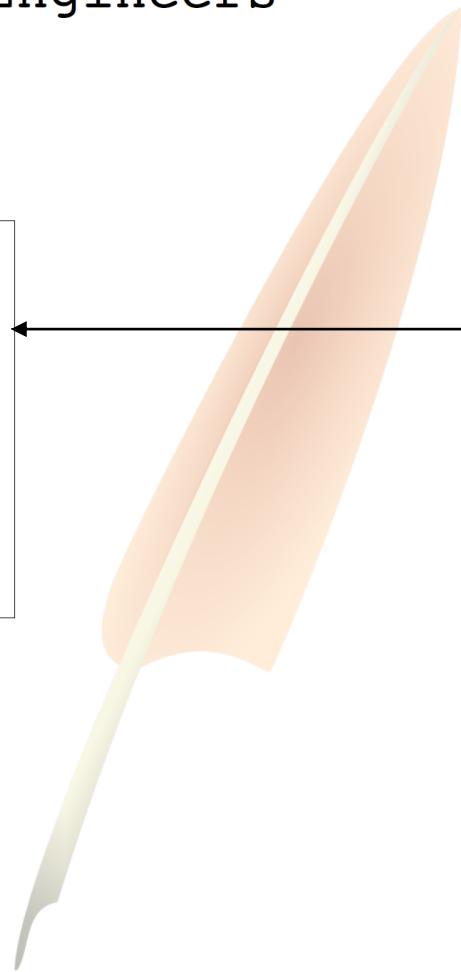
BLG374E

Technical Communications for Engineers

## Plagiarism

### Lecture Contents:

- Principles against plagiarism.
- Idea plagiarism.
- Textual plagiarism.
- How to avoid plagiarism.
- Copyright vs Plagiarism.





# plagiarism

[**pley-juh-riz-uh m, -jee-uh-riz-**]

[Spell](#)[Examples](#)[Word Origin](#)

**noun**

1. an act or instance of using or closely imitating the language and thoughts of another author without authorization and the representation of that author's work as one's own, as by not crediting the original author:

*It is said that he plagiarized Thoreau's plagiarism of a line written by Montaigne.*

Synonyms: [appropriation](#), [infringement](#), [piracy](#), [counterfeiting](#); [theft](#), [borrowing](#), [cribbing](#), [passing off](#).

# Principles against plagiarism.

We do not claim as our own others':

- Ideas.
- Words.

Why?

- Tell truth.
- Respect authorship.
- Help reader trace material.
- Genealogy of ideas.
- Optimal allocation of resources.

**“Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited, whereas imagination embraces the entire world, stimulating progress, giving birth to evolution. It is, strictly speaking, a real factor in scientific research.” Einstein (1931)**



# Principles against plagiarism.

Reader **will assume** that it is:

- Author's words.
- Author's ideas.

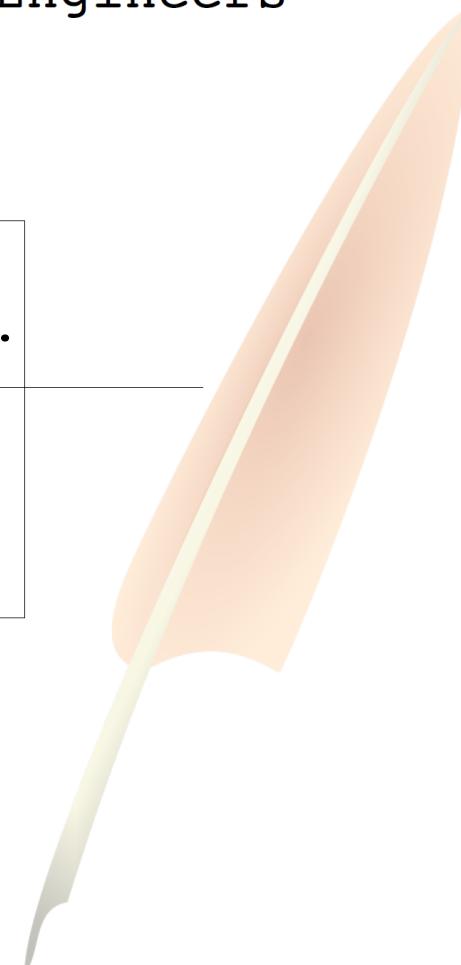
**Author** must make source clear.



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# Idea plagiarism

Claiming another's ideas as own.

- Through **lack of attribution**.

**Remember:** ideas assumed yours.

# Example text

From A. M. Turing (1950) Computing Machinery and Intelligence. Mind 49: 433-460.

## Original:

*...the "imitation game". It is played with three people, a man (A), a woman (B), and an interrogator (C) who may be of either sex. The interrogator stays in a room apart from the other two. The object of the game for the interrogator is to determine which of the other two is the man and which is the woman ... We now ask the question, "What will happen when a machine takes the part of A in this game?" Will the interrogator decide wrongly as often when the game is played like this as he does when the game is played between a man and a woman?*

# Idea plagiarism Examples

## Obvious plagiarism:

*I propose a way to evaluate the ability of an Artificial Intelligence by engaging it in conversation in written form and having it compete with a human to convince a judge that it is in fact a human.*

# Idea plagiarism Examples

## Highly likely plagiarism:

*It is possible to check how good an AI is by making it engage in chat with a human over a terminal and giving the human the task of determining which of the AI and another human with whom they are chatting is a machine or a human.*

# Idea plagiarism Examples

## No plagiarism:

*According to Turing (1950), in order to shed light on the question of whether machines can think, a good thought experiment would be to engage the machine in a game wherein it tries to imitate a human through text-based question and answer.*

Turing, A. M. (1950) Computing Machinery and Intelligence. Mind 49: 433-460.

# Idea plagiarism Examples

## No plagiarism:

*In order to shed light on the question of whether machines can think, a good thought experiment would be to engage the machine in a game wherein it tries to imitate a human through text-based question and answer [1].*

[1] Turing, A. M. Computing Machinery and Intelligence. Mind 49: p. 433-460. 1950.



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# Textual plagiarism

Claiming another's phrasing as own.

- Through lack of attribution.

**Remember:** words assumed yours.

# Textual plagiarism Examples

## Original:

*The object of the game for the interrogator is to determine which of the other two is the man and which is the woman.*



*direct copy*

## Plagiarism:

*The object of the game for the interrogator is to determine which of the other two is the man and which is the woman.*

# Textual plagiarism Examples

## Original:

*The object of the game for the interrogator is to determine which of the other two is the man and which is the woman.*



*direct copy with citation*

## Plagiarism:

*The object of the game for the interrogator is to determine which of the other two is the man and which is the woman [1].*

[1] Turing, A. M. Computing Machinery and Intelligence. Mind 49: p. 433-460. 1950.

# Textual plagiarism Examples

## Original:

*The object of the game for the interrogator is to determine which of the other two is the man and which is the woman.*



*some words changed*

## Plagiarism:

*The aim of the game for the questioner is to guess which of the other two is the man and which is the woman [1].*

[1] Turing, A. M. Computing Machinery and Intelligence. Mind 49: p. 433-460. 1950.

# Textual plagiarism Examples

## Original:

*The object of the game for the interrogator is to determine which of the other two is the man and which is the woman.*



*meaning changed but textual structure same*

## Plagiarism:

*The aim of the game for the questioner is to guess which of the other two is the human and which is the machine [1].*

[1] Turing, A. M. Computing Machinery and Intelligence. Mind 49: p. 433-460. 1950.

# Textual plagiarism Examples

## Original:

*The object of the game for the interrogator is to determine which of the other two is the man and which is the woman.*



*quoted & cited*

## No Plagiarism:

*"The object of the game for the interrogator is to determine which of the other two is the man and which is the woman" [1].*

[1] Turing, A. M. Computing Machinery and Intelligence. Mind 49: p. 433-460. 1950.

# Textual plagiarism Examples

## Original:

*The object of the game for the interrogator is to determine which of the other two is the man and which is the woman.*



*paraphrased & cited*

## No Plagiarism:

*Engage the machine in a game wherein it tries to imitate a human through text-based question and answer just as a man might imitate a woman [1].*

[1] Turing, A. M. Computing Machinery and Intelligence. Mind 49: p. 433-460. 1950.



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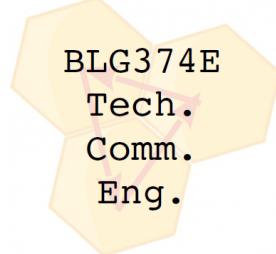


# Ideas

- If you know the idea you write about belongs to someone else, cite a source where that person published that idea.
- Research the literature thoroughly to check whether your idea was published before.
- If ideas that are closely related to your idea were published before, point them out, cite them, and indicate in what ways your idea is different.

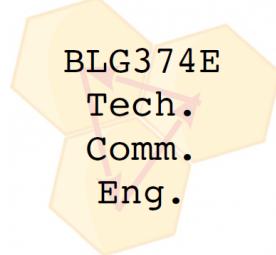
# Sentences

- If you write about someone else's idea, either use their exact sentences in quotation marks, or make sure that your sentences are not trivially modified versions of theirs. Do not forget to cite the source of the idea in either case.
- A possible strategy for safe paraphrasing:
  1. Read and understand the idea well (not memorization)
  2. Close sources
  3. Wait for a while (>half an hour)
  4. Then write from understanding, in your own words.



# When attribution is not required

- Common knowledge / easy deductions.
  - e.g. Earth goes around the sun.  
*"Wow, did you think of that?"*
  - e.g.  $212335363 + 63463464 = 275798827$   
*"Wow, did you think of that?"*



# When attribution is not required

- Simple/compact phrases.
  - e.g. "*sum to infinity of a geometric series*"...  
About 12,800 results (0.30 seconds)
  - e.g. "*the sun rose in the morning*"...  
About 6,490,000 results (0.42 seconds)



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# Copyright

## copyright 1 of 3 noun

copy·right ('kä-pē-, rīt 

[Synonyms of copyright >](#)

: the exclusive legal right to reproduce, publish, sell, or distribute the matter and form of something (such as a literary, musical, or artistic work)

| His family still holds the *copyright* to his songs.

Suppose you want to **reproduce** a whole section of someone else's published book in a paper you want to **publish**. You take the necessary precautions to avoid **plagiarism**.

**Do those precautions save you from **copyright infringement** too?**

# Copyright vs Plagiarism

“Plagiarism is best defined as the *unacknowledged* use of another person’s work. It is an *ethical* issue involving a claim of credit for work that the claimant did not create.” [1]

“Copyright infringement, on the other hand, is the *unauthorized* use of another’s work. This is a *legal* issue that depends on whether or not *the work is protected by copyright* in the first place, as well as on specifics like how much is used and the purpose of the use.” [1]

[1] <https://scholarworks.duke.edu/copyright-advice/copyright-faq/copyright-and-plagiarism/#:~:text=Only%20if%20one%20copies%20another's,ideas%20is%20borrowed%20with%20them.>

# Public Domain

“No permission is needed to copy or use public domain works. A work is generally considered to be within the public domain if it is ineligible for copyright protection or its copyright has expired.

Public domain works can serve as the foundation for new creative works and can be quoted extensively. They can also be copied and distributed to classes or placed on course web pages without permission or paying royalties.”  
[2]

TO AVOID PLAGIARISM, YOU STILL NEED TO CITE A SOURCE WHEN ONE IS AVAILABLE.

Example: No permission is needed to copy from a book with expired copyright, but not citing that book would be plagiarism.

[2] <https://copyright.universityofcalifornia.edu/use/public-domain.html#:~:text=A%20work%20is%20generally%20considered,and%20can%20be%20quoted%20extensively>.

# Readings

Reading & quizzes here:



<http://www.lib.usm.edu/legacy/plag/plagiarismtutorial.php>

<http://cw.routledge.com/textbooks/bailey/questions.asp?unit=1>

Or web search...

A screenshot of a web search interface. On the left is a red "Ask" logo. In the center is a search bar containing the text "plagiarism". To the right of the search bar is a blue button labeled "Find Answers". Below the search bar, there is a list of suggested search terms: "plagiarism definition", "plagiarism checker free", "plagiarism search engines", and "plagiarism detector".

# Plagiarism Quiz

Quiz will start today at 12:15 at [ayva.itu.edu.tr](http://ayva.itu.edu.tr).

6 Questions.

12 minutes total.

Good luck.