

# **Plagiarism**

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IST 511: Writing Workshop

November 8, 2022

## **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is posturing the ideas or words of others as your own. It is the claiming of another's thoughts and how they chose to convey them. The manager of the American blog Reluctant Habits called plagiarism, "a writer signaling utter contempt for the reader" (Marsden, 2014, para. 4). The notion that an idea can be stolen might strike some as silly, but ideas are "considered intellectual property and [are] protected by copyright laws, just like original inventions" (Turnitin, LLC., 2017, para. 4). As a student at California State University Monterey Bay, I am bound to a policy of academic integrity that demands strict respect for others' words and original ideas (California State University Monterey Bay, 2022). I must understand plagiarism and how to avoid it.

Roig (2016) asserts that there are two major forms of plagiarism: that of text and that of ideas. Streefkerk (2022) labels five overarching forms of plagiarism: global, verbatim, paraphrasing, patchwork, and self-plagiarism. While the last four may be committed unintentionally, global plagiarism – in which one attempts to claim an entire work as theirs – is an egregious act that can be easily avoided (Streefkerk, 2022).

Self-plagiarism is not a novel concept to me, but I found the perspectives presented on the topic eye-opening. Roig (2006) makes the compelling point that it represents a waste of time and resources. In his example, a self-plagiarized journal article robs other potential authors of limited print space and wastes the precious time of those tasked with reviewing these articles. Additionally, such self-plagiarism "mislead[s] researchers as to the true nature of a given database" (Roig, 2006, p. 18).

It is helpful to be aware of cultural differences in attitudes towards plagiarism. Many East Asian countries are collectivist; ideas are viewed as the property of the community, not the individual (Campbell, 2017). These teacher-centered cultures often encourage parroting of a

master teacher's ideas. Students from these countries may find themselves "having to re-define academic integrity" (Campbell, 2017, para. 13). The director of Macalester College asserts that such students might even see appropriate citation as an insult, implying that the professor is unaware of basic information (Farhang, 2014). Upon entering Western academia, an introduction to expectations around citation and referencing is necessary.

It is not sufficient to simply know what plagiarism is – one must also know how to avoid it. A helpful tip is to begin by taking your own notes on a reference before drafting a paper (Turnitin, LLC., 2021). The paraphrased version can then be easily referenced. When paraphrasing it is important to modify not only wording, but actual sentence structures. If structure "is preserved in the paraphrase, some will classify such writing as an instance of plagiarism" (Roig, 2006, p. 8). To avoid inappropriate paraphrasing, understanding of the text must be ensured. Admittedly, this can be particularly difficult if the content is highly technical or the subject esoteric (Roig, 2006). If there is any doubt, "you should always cite your source" (Turnitin, LLC., 2021, para. 6). Many helpful resources are available to support appropriate referencing and citation. I have found the Purdue Online Writing Lab indispensable. In addition to specific written guidance, their site also provides several helpful examples of in-text citations and correctly formatted references.

I found the many resources on plagiarism provided in this week's readings to be a helpful review of vital information. As a graduate student tasked with many writing assignments, I must maintain exacting allegiance to honoring the works of those I call upon.

## Resources

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A guide to ethical writing. <https://www.cse.msu.edu/~alexliu/plagiarism.pdf>

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<https://www.scribbr.com/plagiarism/types-of-plagiarism/>

Turnitin, LLC. (2021, Aug 2). *Preventing plagiarism when writing*.

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Turnitin, LLC. (2017, May 18). *What is plagiarism?* [https://www.plagiarism.org/article/what-is-](https://www.plagiarism.org/article/what-is-plagiarism)

[plagiarism](https://www.plagiarism.org/article/what-is-plagiarism)