



PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

The Writing Center Presents:

Quoting, Citing and Paraphrasing



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Quoting, Citing and Paraphrasing

- Whether paraphrasing or directly quoting a source, citing where the information was taken from is necessary.

Plagiarism

- Derived from the Latin word *plagiarius* (“kidnapper”), to plagiarize means “to commit literary theft” and to “present as a new and original idea or product derived from an existing source” (Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary [11th ed.; 2003; print]).

Consequences of Plagiarism

- Plagiarism is a serious charge for any writer.
- Plagiarists are often seen as incompetent – incapable of developing and expressing their own thoughts – or worse, dishonest, willing to deceive others for personal gain.

Consequences of Plagiarism

- Students exposed as plagiarists may suffer severe penalties, ranging from failure in the assignment or in the course to expulsion from school.
- Student plagiarism also becomes a matter of significance to the public.
 - When graduates' skills and knowledge fail to match their grades, an institution's reputation is damaged.

Unintentional Plagiarism

- Plagiarism sometimes happens because researchers do not keep precise records of their reading, and by the time they return to their notes, they have forgotten whether their summaries or paraphrases that are not properly cited.

Unintentional Plagiarism

- Presenting an author's exact wording without marking it as a quotation is plagiarism, even if you cite the source.
- If you realize after handing a paper in that you accidentally plagiarized an author's work, you should report the problem to your instructor as soon as possible.

Forms of Plagiarism

- The most blatant form is to obtain by either purchasing or having someone write a paper for you and submitting it as your own.
- Other forms include failure to acknowledge sources when repeating or paraphrasing another's wording, taking a particular phrase, argument or line of thinking.

You Have Plagiarized If:

- Your summarization or paraphrasing of a quote does not mention the source and is presented as your own.
- Copying and pasting text from an online source into your paper without citing the source.
- You took someone's unique or particularly apt phrase without acknowledgement.

You Have Plagiarized If:

- You paraphrased someone's argument or presented someone's line of thought without acknowledgement.
- You bought or otherwise acquired a research paper and handed in part or all of it as your own.

You Can Avoid Plagiarism By:

- Making a list of the sources and their viewpoints.
- Keeping the following three categories distinct in your notes:
 - your ideas, your summaries of others' material, and exact wording you copy.
- Identifying the sources of all material you borrow
 - direct quoting, paraphrases, ideas, arguments, and facts.

Related Issues

- Reusing a Research Paper
 - Handing in a paper you already earned credit for in another course is deceitful.
 - If you want to rework a paper that you prepared for another course, ask your current instructor for permission to do so.
 - This also applies to using portions of a previously written paper.

Related Issues

- Collaborative Work
 - Ex: Group Research : It does not constitute plagiarism provided that credit is given for all contributions.
 - One way to give credit is to state exactly who did what.
 - Acknowledge all contributors equally.

Related Issues

- Research Human Subjects
 - Many academic institutions have policies governing research on human subjects.
 - EX: Clinical trials of a drug or a personal interview for a psychological study.
 - Researchers must obtain the informed consent of human subjects for such projects

Copyright Infringement

- Reproducing and distributing an entire copyrighted work or significant portions of it without obtaining permission to do so from the copyright holder is an infringement of copyright law and a legal offense, even if the source is acknowledged.

All Information Obtained From:

- *MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing* (3rd ed.; New York: MLA, 2008; print).

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