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For Research Instruction
(936) 261-1535

Kimberly Gay, Reference and Instruction Librarian
(Agriculture, Business, Communications, Education, History, Human Sciences, Journalism, Juvenile Justice, Languages & Literature, Nursing, Political Science, Sociology & Social Work, and University College)

kmgay@pvamu.edu (936) 261-1506

Chieko Sato
Reference and Instruction Librarian
(Art and Architecture, Community Development, Mathematics, Physics, Engineering, Biology, Chemistry, Government Docs, and ROTC)

chsato@pvamu.edu (936) 261-1507

Useful websites:

TAMU System Regulation 15.99.03
“Ethics in Research and Scholarship”

PVAMU Undergraduate Catalog
Statement on Academic Honesty
http://www.pantherconnect.com/catalog/catalog_undergrad.swf

ACRL Plagiarism and cyber-plagiarism
from C&RL News, June 2003
Vol. 64 No. 6
by Patience Simmonds

If you need research help or have any questions, call the Reference Desk
(936) 261-1535
or Email A Librarian at Askalibrarian@pvamu.edu
Summarizing
Copying (including cut and paste)
Paraphrasing
Plagiarism

Not giving credit for any of these is illegal

...so what’s the bottom line?

Think in terms of words and ideas; copying someone else’s words without giving credit is wrong (even if we cut and paste from a webpage), but even using some else’s IDEAS counts

What is copyright?
Copyright is Federal protection to authors of ‘original works.’ These include, but are not limited to, literary, artistic, musical, dramatic and other intellectual works.

What is fair use?
Fair use allows you to use copyrighted works for your class assignments; school use ONLY. U.S. Courts look at 4 criteria in determining fair use:

* Purpose and nature of the use
* Nature of the copyrighted work
* How much of the work is used
* Could it impact the marketplace

What is plagiarism?
Plagiarism is loosely defined as taking someone else’s intellectual work and passing it off as your own, either intentionally or unintentionally.

What is public domain?
Anything not copyrighted is in public domain. Generally speaking, this covers anything published before 1923.

What is common knowledge?
Common knowledge is essentially that; something that everyone knows. For example, you do not need to find citations showing that Austin is the capital of Texas or that Saturn has rings around it.

What is paraphrasing?
Paraphrasing is using your own words to express the same idea as another author. This is the skill you should be working towards acquiring. Because it is still not your own work (not your ideas) you need to use them SPARINGLY.

...so what do I need to know?

If you have ANY doubts, enclose the text in quotation marks. Generally speaking, anything longer than 3 words needs to be enclosed in quotation marks.

Keep your grade afloat-
Learn to quote!

Example of plagiarism and appropriate use of intellectual property


“We must move out of packaging undergraduate research. Yes it is understood that it a goal we all adopt and that there is real disagreement over whose provenance it is, but this all misses the central point that we have conflated two different conceptions of what research actually is. To the average student, research means the ability to pull up resources her professor will accept as footnotes in an essay.”

Unacceptable plagiarism:

We should not package undergraduate research. Although it is a goal we adopt, we should not conflate two different conceptions of what research actually is. Students who are average think it means pulling up resources acceptable as footnotes.

Why is this bad?

* Test too closely matches and even is word for word at times
* Only a few words have been changed
* Sentences are in the same order
* There is no citation for the source

Acceptable paraphrase:

Disagreements about what counts as undergraduate research exist, but it should not be forced into a one-size-fits-all. Most students understand it as simply finding acceptable articles. (Shaw, 2003)

Why is this good?

* Content is the same, but the writer uses her own words
* Credit is given

Another example of acceptable paraphrase:

Disagreements about what counts as undergraduate research exist, but we should “move out of packaging” it. Most students understand it as simply finding acceptable articles. (Shaw, 2003)

Why is this good?

* Content is the same, but the writer uses her own words
* Words taken directly from the source are enclosed in quotation marks.

GIVE CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE