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The Writing Center Presents:

Avoiding Plagiarism



Discussion :

- What is plagiarism?
- What does plagiarism look like?
- How do we plagiarize?
- How do we avoid plagiarism?

What Do Students Think?

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OFtdZTG2-OM>

Plagiarism:

According to MLA, plagiarism is the act of:

- Committing literary theft by presenting someone else's work as as your own, original words and/or ideas.
- Plagiarism can be using someone's words, ideas and or information without giving them credit for their work.
- Plagiarism is both intellectual theft and fraud.

Facts about plagiarism:

- A study by The Center for Academic Integrity found that almost 80% of college students admit to cheating at least once.
- According to a survey by the Psychological Record 36% of undergraduates have admitted to plagiarizing written material.

Forms of Plagiarism:

- Downloading a paper from the internet
- Purchasing a paper from a commercial paper mill
- Copying an article from the Web or an electronic database
- Copying from a local source
- Cutting and pasting to create a paper from several sources
- Faking a citation

Forms of Plagiarism:

- Using information or ideas that are not common knowledge from any source and failing to acknowledge that source.
- Handing in the same paper for two different classes.

Why students plagiarize:



- “I didn’t have enough time.”
- “It’s easier to pay someone to do it.”
- “I’m not a good writer.”
- “The teacher will never know.”
- “It was an accident.”



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Common Knowledge:

- Common knowledge is that information that the average, educated, reader knows.
- Questions to ask yourself when determining common knowledge
 - Who is my audience?
 - Is it a fair assumption that they know this information?
 - Will I be asked to provide a citation on this?

Direct Quotation:

- A direct quotation is when you use the exact language of the original author.
- Think of this as a “copy and paste.”
- To use this correctly, you must signify it is a quotation through the use of “quotation marks” as well as a providing a proper in text citation.

When to use a quotation:

- To capture another writer's particularly memorable language in order to add interest and liveliness to your paper.
- Another writer's language is so clear that to make the same point in your own words, you would, by comparison be using ineffective language.
- To lend authority and credibility to your own writing.

The quotation Sandwich:

- There are three parts to correct quotation use:
 - Introduce the quotation
 - Use the quotation
 - Explain the quotation

Use the quotation sandwich:

- Topic – George Orwell’s career
- Author – George Orwell
- Quotation – “What I have most wanted to do throughout the past ten years is to make political writing into an art. My starting point is always a feeling of partisanship, a sense of injustice” (p. 604).

Paraphrase:

- A paraphrase is a restatement of the author's words into your own words.
- Generally the structure and syntax of the sentence should NOT mirror that of the original source.
- If you used synonym finder while paraphrasing, odds are you paraphrased incorrectly.

Paraphrase this sentence:

- “Whatever your purpose in writing, one or more of these ways of thinking – or methods of development – can help you discover and shape your ideas” (p. 1)

Summary:

- A summary is a clear and concise statement of the main points of a source.
- A summary should not be overly detailed.

Summarize this quotation

- “In depicting the storm at sea – a subjective description – Charles Dickens sorts out the pandemonium for us. He groups the carious sounds into two classes: those of the sea and sailors, and the “domestic noises” of the ship’s passengers – their smashing dishes, their rolling bottles, the crashing of stewards who await them” (p. 94)

You can avoid plagiarism by:

- Placing all quoted material in quotation marks
- Identifying the sources you paraphrase or summarize from
- Giving credit for the creative ideas you borrow from a source, including anecdotes or examples
- When paraphrasing and summarizing, replace the structure of the passage and replace the language with your own.
- **WHEN IN DOUBT, CITE!**

I don't know what to say!

- Make sure that if you have a choice in your topic, you choose something that interests you.
- Start by reading research that is already out there. There is no reason to reinvent the wheel in the beginning. Just make sure you cite other author's ideas.
- Begin writing early enough to where you plenty time to visit the Writing Center for a brainstorming session.

Help, I don't have enough time!

- Unfortunately, there are assignments where you do not allot enough time. There are good and bad options
 - Ask teacher for an extension. – Good
 - Make sure what you have is quality. - Good
 - Pay someone to write it for you. – Bad
 - Fill a paper with quotes. –Bad



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Consequences of plagiarism



- Failing the assignment
- Failing the class
- Suspension/Expulsion.

All Information Obtained From:

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- Ehrens, Laurence. Writing and Reading Across The Curriculum. New York: Longman, 2000.
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