

Department of English

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2nd year LMD students

Groups (3, 4, 7)

Plagiarism

Many people think of plagiarism as copying another's work or borrowing someone else's original ideas. But terms like "copying" and "borrowing" can disguise the seriousness of the offense:

According to the Merriam-Webster online dictionary, to "plagiarize" means:

- to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own
- to use (another's production) without crediting the source
- to commit literary theft
- to present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source

In other words, plagiarism is an act of fraud. It involves both stealing someone else's work and lying about it afterward.

But can words and ideas really be stolen?

According to U.S. law, the answer is yes. The expression of original ideas is considered intellectual property and is protected by copyright laws, just like original inventions. Almost all forms of expression fall under copyright protection as long as they are recorded in some way (such as a book or a computer file).

All of the following are considered plagiarism:

- turning in someone else's work as your own
- copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
- failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
- giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
- changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit
- copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not (see our section on "fair use" rules)

Most cases of plagiarism can be avoided, however, by citing sources. Simply acknowledging that certain material has been borrowed and providing your audience with the information necessary to find that source is usually enough to prevent plagiarism. See our section on [citation](#) for more information on how to cite sources properly.

Types of plagiarism

There're different types of plagiarism. Here are the most common ones;

1- global plagiarism

This occurs when you take the entire work of someone else and pass it as your own without attribution. For instance, if you find an essay online and you just take it as it is and submit it as your own work, you're committing plagiarism, for it's considered as a deliberately act of lying about the authorship.

2- Paraphrasing plagiarism

This one is the most common type and it occurs when you paraphrase a piece of text without giving credit to the owner.

3- Verbatim plagiarism (copy & paste)

Verbatim plagiarism happens whenever you copy a piece of information and paste it directly on your document without providing the original source.

How to avoid plagiarism

Citation

A “citation” is the way you tell your readers that certain material in your work came from another source. It also gives your readers the information necessary to find the location details of that source on the reference or Works Cited page. A citation must include a set of parentheses. Without a set of parenthesis, one does not have a proper in-text citation and can risk being charged with plagiarism. Here is what an in-text citation looks like underlined below.

Due to needed upgrades to the Indianapolis Zoo exhibits, their only polar bear will relocate to Detroit (Ryckahert & Lange, 2016).

Giving credit to the original author by citing sources is the only way to use other people’s work without plagiarizing. But there are a number of other reasons to cite sources:

- Citations are extremely helpful to anyone who wants to find out more about your ideas and where they come from.
- Citing sources show the amount of research you’ve done.
- It strengthens your work by lending support to your ideas.

Citation Methods

Quoting

- Quotations must be identical to the original text.
- Quotes match the source document word for word and must be attributed to the original author.
- When quoting, author’s last name, year of publication, and page number must be given.

“Self-directed learning is also a term with which you will become familiar as you study in Australia or New Zealand. Students are expected to take responsibility for their own learning and organise their own study” (Hally, 2009, p. 7).

- In case you omit something from within the quote, then you must replace it with ellipsis points (. . .)

“Self-directed learning is also a term with which you will become familiar . . . Students are expected to take responsibility for their own learning and organise their own study” (Hally, 2009, p. 7).

- The brackets around the word [be in charge] indicate that you substituted that word for other words the writer used.

“Self-directed learning is also a term with which you will become familiar . . . Students are expected to [be in charge] for their own learning and organise their own study” (Hally, 2009, p. 7).

- Use single quotation marks inside double quotation marks when you have a quote within a quote.

Emily told me, “Delia said, ‘This will never work.’ ”

Paraphrasing

- Both paraphrasing and summarizing involve putting information from source material into **your own words**.
- When paraphrasing, do not add your own opinion or use the original wording.
- The purpose of paraphrasing is to express the ideas of others in your own word, keep its original meaning as given and change the identical sentence structure.
- Paraphrased material may be shorter than the original passage, taking a larger section of the source and condensing it slightly.
- When paraphrasing, you must cite the original source.

Example:

ORIGINAL TEXT/QUOTED (45 words)

“Traditionally, in oral and written discourses, the masculine pronoun 'he' was used as a pronoun to refer to a person whose gender was unknown or irrelevant to the context. Recently, this usage has come under criticism for supporting gender-based stereotypes and is increasingly considered inappropriate” (Smith, 2010, p. 24).

ACCEPTABLE PARAPHRASED TEXT (56 words)

If the gender of a person was not known or was unimportant to the meaning of oral or written texts, it was customary to use the masculine form of 'he' when a pronoun was required; however, there has been growing concern about this practice in modern usage because it appears to privilege stereotypes based on gender (Smith, 2010).

- ✓ *The MEANING is the same.*
- ✓ *Most of the words have been changed.*
- ✓ *The sentences have been significantly restructured.*
- ✓ *This is about the same length as the original writing*
- ✓ *The information is correctly referenced.*

Summarizing

Summarizing is when you give an overview of the author's key ideas as a whole, or provide an overview of a topic. People usually summarize when the original text is long.

- Summarizing also involves putting the main idea(s) into your own words, which include the main point(s) only (the main idea).
- Summaries leave out detail or examples that may distract the reader from the most important information.

- Summaries are significantly shorter than the original and give a broad overview of the source material.
- Once again, it is necessary to cite the original source.
- You are encouraged to include page or chapter numbers when summarizing, particularly if it will help your reader to locate the relevant passage within a longer work.

Example:

ORIGINAL TEXT (103 words)

“For most people, writing is an extremely difficult task if they are trying to grapple in their language with new ideas and new ways of looking at them. Sitting down to write can be an agonising experience, which doesn't necessarily get easier with the passage of time and the accumulation of experience. For this reason you need to reflect upon and analyse your own reactions to the task of writing. That is to say, the task will become more manageable if you learn how to cope with your own particular ways avoiding putting off the moment when you must put pen to paper” (Taylor, 1989, p. 3).

ACCEPTABLE SUMMARISED TEXT (31 words)

Inexperienced and even skilled writers can feel a great deal of anguish when faced with writing tasks; however, this response can be managed by recognising and coping with personal avoidance strategies (Taylor, 1989).

- ✓ The MEANING is the same.
- ✓ This is a much shorter version of the original writing.
- ✓ The source/s of information is/are clearly referenced.

Relevant references:

Practical Research Methods

A Guide for Scientific Writing

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