



# PLAGIARISM

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*...and how to avoid it*



# What is plagiarism?

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Plagiarism is using other people's ideas, words, artwork, music, etc without giving them credit.

Dictionary.com defines plagiarism as "the unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one's own original work."




## Sometimes plagiarism is easy to recognize:

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Buying, stealing or borrowing a paper from someone else is plagiarism.

Copying large sections of text without using quotation marks and a citation is plagiarism.



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Sometimes  
plagiarism is harder  
to recognize:



Paraphrasing that is too close to the original is plagiarism.

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Original quote:

“You will almost always utilize the work of others. That’s essential to good research.”

Poor paraphrase:

It is essential to good research to utilize the work of others.



## A better paraphrase...

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Original quote:

“You will almost always utilize the work of others. That’s essential to good research.”

Better paraphrase:

As Lipson points out, a good paper will build on previous research (9).



Using someone else's ideas without crediting them is plagiarism.

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Paraphrase, with proper citation:

In her book, the author contends that Mozart did not compose completed full scores from his head, but rather wrote many drafts and revisions (Rosing, 106).

Plagiarism (no citation):

Mozart could not possibly have written down finished works without first writing drafts and revisions.



## The Three Principles of Academic Honesty (Lipson, 3)

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- When you say you did the work yourself, you actually did it.
- When you rely on someone else's work, you cite it. When you use their words, you quote them openly and accurately, and you cite them, too.
- When you present research materials, you present them fairly and truthfully. That's true whether the research involves data, documents, or the writings of other scholars.





## How to avoid plagiarism

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- When in doubt, give credit by citing the original source.
- If you use an author's exact words, enclose them in quotation marks and include a citation.
- **Tip: When taking notes, enclose all quoted material in big "Q"s and write the page number down.**



## How to avoid plagiarism

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- If you paraphrase another author, use your own language. Don't imitate the original. Be sure to include a citation.
- Tip: When paraphrasing, check your work against the original.



## How to avoid plagiarism

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- Tip: write down the citation information for **every source** you take notes on.

Depending on the source this may include title, author, publisher, volume and issue number, year, page number(s) or URL.

You will save yourself time and aggravation if you do this when you take your notes.



## What don't I have to cite?

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- Your own experiences, thoughts, observations, insights and conclusions
- Data from your own lab results or field experiments



## What don't I have to cite? (cont.)

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- Common knowledge, such as folklore and myths (Zeus is a Roman god.)
- Common sense observations (*Harry Potter* is a popular series of books.)
- Generally-accepted facts (Tucson is hot in the summer.)



## What don't I have to cite? (cont.)

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- Historical events (The Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776)
- Note: historical *documents* must be cited.
- Remember: when in doubt, cite the source!



# References

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- Lipson, Charles. Doing honest work in college. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2004.
- "Plagiarism." Dictionary.com Unabridged. 2007. 15 Aug. 2007 <<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/plagiarism>>
- Stolley, Karl. Ed. "Avoiding Plagiarism". The OWL at Purdue. 10 May 2006. Purdue University Writing Lab. 15 Aug. 2007 <<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/printable/589>>