

Preventing Plagiarism and Citing Sources



Reference Division
Watson Memorial Library
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NOTICE:

WHEN YOU PLAGIARIZE, YOU ASSUME THE SIGNIFICANT RISK OF RECEIVING A FAILING GRADE FOR THE SEMESTER, BEING PLACED ON ACADEMIC PROBATION, OR EXPULSION FROM THE UNIVERSITY.

NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY USES TURNITIN, A HIGHLY EFFECTIVE SOFTWARE THAT AUTOMATICALLY DETECTS PLAGIARIZED TEXT FROM A VARIETY OF SOURCES, INCLUDING WEBPAGES, BOOKS, AND ONLINE DATABASES.

YOU COMMIT PLAGIARISM IF...

- 1) YOU BUY A RESEARCH PAPER FROM AN ONLINE TERM PAPER MILL
- 2) YOU TURN IN AN ASSIGNMENT THAT WAS WRITTEN FOR YOU BY ANOTHER PERSON
- 3) YOU EXCLUDE QUOTATION MARKS FOR INFORMATION TAKEN DIRECTLY FROM A SOURCE
- 4) YOU PARAPHRASE MATERIAL IN A PAPER WITHOUT PROVIDING A CITATION
- 5) YOU CUT AND PASTE INFORMATION FROM THE INTERNET OR ELECTRONIC FULL-TEXT JOURNAL ARTICLES WITHOUT CITING THE SOURCE.

READ YOUR COURSE SYLLABUS CAREFULLY. YOUR INSTRUCTOR MAY DEFINE PLAGIARISM DIFFERENTLY. MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT YOUR INSTRUCTOR CONSIDERS PLAGIARISM AND WHAT HE OR SHE CONSIDERS APPROPRIATE PENALTIES.

YOU AVOID PLAGIARISM BY CORRECTLY...

DOCUMENTING YOUR SOURCES

Be sure to find out and follow the proper style to document your sources. Each academic discipline usually has a preferred guide. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA)*, and *The Chicago Manual of Style* are located behind the reference desk and available for use. A library guide for "Citing Electronic Sources" is available on the racks next to the reference entry. When in doubt, check with your instructor about the proper form.

PARAPHRASING

Paraphrased information must be accompanied by a citation, or in-text reference to the source from which you took the information, just as quoted material must be. Failure to provide citation will be interpreted by others as plagiarism, even if you list the source in your bibliography."
– *BC-OWL Resource: Guide to Paraphrasing, Summarizing, and Quoting.* (2005)

SUMMARIZING

"A summary should bring out the main ideas of the passage, and this means that it need not follow the same order as the original text. The requirements of the summary are that it be clear, concise, and accurate in representing the original text. Like paraphrased information, summarized information must be accompanied by a citation, or in-text reference to the source from which you took the information, just as quoted material must be. Failure to provide citation will be interpreted by others as plagiarism, even if you list the source in your bibliography."
– *BC-OWL Resource: Guide to Paraphrasing, Summarizing, and Quoting.* (2005)

QUOTING:

A quotation is copied with the purpose of reproducing the author's exact words and must be surrounded by quotation marks with appropriate documentation.
– *BC-OWL Resource: Guide to Paraphrasing, Summarizing, and Quoting.* (2005)

SOURCE:

Bridgewater College, *BC-OWL Resource: Guide to Paraphrasing, Summarizing, and Quoting.* (2005) <http://www.bridgewater.edu/WritingCenter/manual/paraphrase.htm>

OTHER HELPFUL WEBSITES:

The Online Writing Lab at Purdue University <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl>

The Plagiarism Tutorial at the University of Southern Mississippi Libraries
<http://www.lib.usm.edu/legacy/plag/plagiarismtutorial.php>

The Virtual Academic Integrity Laboratory at the University of Maryland
<http://www-apps.umuc.edu/vailtutor/>

Plagiarism: What it is, How to Recognize it and How to Avoid It: A Pamphlet from Indiana University at Bloomington
<http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml>