

PLAGIARISM:

To be fair and ethical, you must always acknowledge your debt to the writers of the sources you use. If you do not, you are guilty of plagiarism, a serious academic offense. The quickest way to fail the course and lose your instructor as an ally is to plagiarize in your paper.

What is plagiarism?

- Using someone else's speech as your own by failing to properly cite or quote borrowed words and ideas
- Failing to put summaries and paraphrases in your own words
- Mixing an author's phrases with your own without proper citation or quotes

What will happen to you if you plagiarize?

- There is no sympathy for students in this course who copy the words of others and submit them as their own. If you copy the language and/or ideas of others, you will be caught and receive an F.
- Your name will also be submitted to the dean and your name will be added to a list of students who have been guilty of plagiarizing and this list can be shared with your current and future instructors.

OVERVIEW AND CONTRADICTIONS:

(from Purdue University's writing advice)

Research-based writing in American institutions, both educational and corporate, is filled with rules that writers, particularly beginners, are not aware of or do not know how to follow. Many of these rules have to do with research and proper citation. Gaining a familiarity of these rules, however, is critically important, as inadvertent mistakes can lead to charges of **plagiarism**, which is the uncredited use (both intentional and unintentional) of somebody else's words or ideas.

While some cultures may not insist so heavily on fully documenting the original sources of other words, ideas, images, sounds, etc., American culture does. A charge of plagiarism can have severe consequences, including expulsion from college or loss of a job, not to mention a writer's loss of credibility and professional standing.

INTELLECTUAL CHALLENGES IN AMERICAN ACADEMIC WRITING:

There are some intellectual challenges that all students are faced with when writing. Sometimes these challenges can almost seem like contradictions, particularly when addressing

them within a single paper. However, the ultimate goal is to successfully overcome these challenges and never resort to plagiarizing. Here are some tips to keep in mind as you write – following these guidelines will help you to avoid the pitfalls that tend to lead some students to plagiarize others' work:

- Develop a topic based on what has already been said and written **but** write something new and original about that same topic, or about a similar and related topic
- Rely on the opinions of experts and authorities on a topic **but** improve upon and/or disagree with those same opinions rather than simply agreeing with or repeated them
- Give credit to researchers who have come before you **but** make your own significant contribution by adding something new to the conversation – simply and blindly recapitulating the ideas of others is the most common trap that students fall into when plagiarizing the work of others
- Improve your English or fit into a (new) discourse community by building upon what you hear and read **but** remember to always use your own words and your own voice to express your ideas

WHAT IS PLAGIARISM?

(from Plagiarism.org)

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

1. to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own
2. to use (another's production) without crediting the source
3. to commit literary theft
4. 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 then lying about it afterward in a misguided attempt to conceal the theft.

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

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.