Avoiding Plagiarism

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What is Plagiarism?

• “The practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own.”
  - The Oxford Dictionary of English (2nd edition revised)

• “Plagiarism involves stealing or closely imitating another’s written, creative, electronic, photographed, taped, or research work, identifying it as your own without permission or authorization.”
  - Bugeja, M. p.37-38
Why Do People Plagiarize?
Why You Should Care

• Immediate Implications
  • Lowering of a Grade
  • Failure for the Assignment
  • Failure or Dismissal from the Course
  • Suspension from a Curriculum
  • Suspension from HACC

• Future Problems
  • Degree
  • Employment
  • Reputation
Examples of Plagiarism

- Buying or obtaining a paper in some way and representing it as your own work
- Having someone else write a paper (report, speech, essay, etc.) for you
- Copying and pasting text from a source without proper citation
- Paraphrasing poorly
Citation Styles

• MLA
  ▪ Modern Language Association
    ▪ English & Other Humanities
    ▪ Citation Guide

• APA
  ▪ American Psychological Association
    ▪ Psychology & Other Social Sciences
    ▪ Citation Guide
Scenario #1

- **Source:** [http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/](http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/)

- **Original Wording:** “Climate change is a problem that is affecting people and the environment. Greater energy efficiency and new technologies hold promise for reducing greenhouse gases and solving this global challenge.”

- **Judi’s Paper:** Climate change is a major problem that affects people and the environment. An increase in energy efficiency using new technologies can lower greenhouse gases and solve this worldwide challenge.
Scenario #2

Kathleen has a research paper due in her English composition class. She is allowed to choose any topic covering a controversial issue. Kathleen received an “A” on a paper she wrote for another class on the topic of immigration. Kathleen submits the same paper for this assignment.
Scenario #3

Katie is giving a PowerPoint presentation for her marketing class. She found a graph online and cut & pasted it into her PowerPoint presentation. She lists the website and date she visited the site below the image.
Scenario #4

- **Original Wording:** More than half the animal images in the play are Iago's, and all these are contemptuous or repellent: a plague of flies, a quarrelsome dog, the recurrent image of bird-snaring, leading asses by the nose, a spider catching a fly, beating an offenceless dog, wild cats, wolves, goats and monkeys. (Caroline F. E. Spurgeon, Shakespeare's Imagery (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1935), p. 335).

- **Stan’s Paper:** The majority of the animal images in the play are Iago's, and all of these are contemptuous or repellent. He refers to a plague of flies, a quarrelsome dog, bird-snaring, leading asses by the nose, a spider catching a fly, beating an offenceless dog, wild cats, goats and monkeys. (Spurgeon, 1935, p. 335).

Using Scenarios to Teach Undergraduates About Copyright, Fair Use and Plagiarism http://www.lib.usf.edu/ref/SAA/ioextest.html
Scenario #5

- Cecelia is used to her peers reviewing her writing in class so she asks her sister to look at her paper and give her suggestions for improvement, too. After discussing the topic of the paper, her sister has many suggestions and re-writes some of the sentences to better express Cecelia’s ideas and opinions.
Assistance

• Writing Center
  • APA Assistance
  • Writing Tutors

• Library
  • Citation Guides
  • Research Assistance

• Instructor
  • When in doubt....ALWAYS check with your instructor....SHE assigns the grades.
Conclusions

- **College Reference Librarian, Julia Schult:**
  
  “Plagiarism isn’t a bad thing simply because it’s intellectual theft – although it is that. It’s a bad thing because it takes the place of and prevents learning.”

- Wood, G. p.239