Incorporating Sources and Avoiding Plagiarism

Graduate Resource Center

Graduate Resource Center

grc@uci.edu

Produced by Christine King

Plagiarism Quiz

True or False?

"Handing in significant parts or the whole of a paper or article form an author other than myself, granted that I acknowledge that this is from an author other than myself is not plagiarism."

False. Work turned in as your own must be original

http://slis.wayne.edu/plagiarism-quiz.php

Plagiarism Quiz

True or False?

"Common knowledge (composed of facts that can be found in a variety of sources and which many people know) does not need to be cited."

True. Examples of "common knowledge" include Barack Obama is President, studies show a link between smoking and disease

http://slis.wayne.edu/plagiarism-quiz.php

Plagiarism Quiz

True or False?

"If I change a few words within a section of source text and then use that in my paper, then I am paraphrasing and not plagiarizing."

False. You need to cite all original ideas, not just text

http://slis.wayne.edu/plagiarism-quiz.php

Plagiarism Quiz

True or False?

"I didn't plagiarize; I have quotes all throughout my paper, almost sentence for sentence!

True. But your argument and rhetorical style is unoriginal.

- http://slis.wayne.edu/plagiarism-quiz.php

Plagiarism Quiz

True or False?

"My husband/ wife/ child/ parent/ friend helped me with the paper. He/she wrote or rewrote part or all of it in order to make it more interesting, more authoritative or 'smarter.' This wasn't plagiarism – I simply got some help."

Grey Area. Light editing is permissible, but if someone provided key ideas or phrases, it is not actually your original argument.

- http://slis.wayne.edu/plagiarism-quiz.php

Plagiarism Quiz

True or False?

If I use sentences or paragraphs from a former paper I wrote, this is not plagiarism since these are my ideas."

Grey area. If you cite sentences or paragraphs from a published paper, you *should* cite yourself. If it is unpublished and you have your professor's permission, it is acceptable. Citing is the best choice.

- http://slis.wayne.edu/plagiarism-quiz.php

What *is* Plagiarism?

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

Webster's online dictionary

History of Plagiarism

"Like other academic practices, plagiarism has a history.... "
-- Andre Wakefield, The Chronicle of Higher Education, September 14, 2001

Historian Jim Baumlin argues:

Plagiarism is the product of a particular historical moment and intellectual culture:

- The definition of plagiarism has changed over time depending on people's understanding of what knowledge is, what a text is, what an author is, and whether one can declare ownership over an idea
- The term derives from ancient Roman Law – prescribed punishment for kidnapping
- First used in English in 1601, but first copyright law not passed until 1710
(not until 18th Century could legal authorship be fulfilled)

History of Plagiarism

Our understanding of plagiarism is a product of the transformations during the 18th Century:

- ideology of sovereign individual
- development of technology of mass production of texts
- cultural shift from morality to literacy
- transition of emphasis from rhetorical to scientific (scientific revolution)
- creation of a nation-state as the protector of private
- text as intellectual capital – as value in a capitalistic economy
- growth of a literate middle class who act as both producer and consumer

The result: idea of "intellectual property"

For more information:
Dr. Jim Baumlin presents "A Social History of Plagiarism" for Academic Integrity Week. Jan 27, 2010 , *www.youtube.com/watch?v=zb0cdy3LwzY*

Why Does the History Matter?

- Ideas about Plagiarism continue to change!
  - Today the stability of texts can no longer be taken for granted
  - The Internet is changing ideas about the production of knowledge

- Texts replicate beyond governance of copyright laws
  - Internet swallows up all previous production
  - All text will become hypertext-above or beyond text – readers may follow their own path, create their own order, create their own material
  - Example: "webmaster" compiles data from various sources without citations, most remain anonymous/unaccountable

- Our own definition of plagiarism is becoming increasingly difficult
  - Example – illegally downloaded music/ movies
  - Example – copyrighted material may be uploaded on youtube for free viewing

- As scholars our work is composed amidst these changing trends.

UCI Academic Honesty Statement:

- Academic dishonesty "involves text, images, and ideas"

- Plagiarism is "intellectual theft."

- Two forms of Plagiarism
  1. "To steal or pass off as one's own the ideas or words, images, or other creative works of another."
  2. "To use a creative production without crediting the source, even if only minimal information is available to identify it for citation."

http://www.editor.uci.edu/catalogue/appx/appx.2.htm#academic

UCI Academic Honesty Statement:

- Credit must be given for:

  o **Every** direct quotation

  o For **paraphrasing** or **summarizing** a work (in whole, or in part, in one's own words)

  o For **information which is not common knowledge**

http://www.editor.uci.edu/catalogue/appx/appx.2.htm#academic

UCI's Expectations for Students

- Refraining from cheating and plagiarism
- Refusing to aid or abet any form of academic dishonesty
- Notifying professors and/or appropriate administrative officials about observed incidents of academic misconduct. The anonymity of a student reporting an incident of academic dishonesty will be protected.

http://www.editor.uci.edu/catalogue/appx/appx.2.htm#academic

Dishonest Conduct thus includes:

1.   Stealing or attempting to steal an examination or answer key from the instructor.
2.   Changing or attempting to change academic records without proper sanction.
3.   Submitting substantial portions of the same work for credit in more than one course without consulting all instructors involved.
4.   Forging add/drop/change cards and other enrollment documents, or altering such documents after signatures have been obtained.
5.   Intentionally disrupting the educational process in any manner.
6.   Allowing another student to copy off of one's own work during a test.

http://www.editor.uci.edu/catalogue/appx/appx.2.htm#academic

Example of Plagiarism

Montcalm and Wolfe

All, and more than all, that France had lost England had won. Now, for the first time, she was beyond dispute the greatest of maritime and colonial Powers. Portugal and Holland, her precursors in ocean enterprise, had long ago fallen hopelessly behind. Two great rivals remained, and she had humbled the one and swept the other from her path. Spain, with vast American possessions, was sinking into the decay which is one of the phenomena of modern history; while France, of late a most formidable competitor, had abandoned the contest in despair. England was mistress of the seas.1

1 Francis Parkman, Montcalm and Wolfe (Boston: Little, Brown, and Company, 1885), 411.

Plagiarized Version

France's loss was England's gain. For the first time, the English found themselves the greatest of maritime and colonial powers. The countries of Portugal and Holland, which had ventured seaward long before England, had fallen hopelessly behind. "Two great rivals remained," wrote Francis Parkman of Spain and France, "and she had humbled the one and swept the other from her path."1 Spain, with vast American possessions, was sinking into decay, and France, although a fierce rival before the war, abandoned the competition in despair. England ruled the waves.

1 Francis Parkman, Montcalm and Wolfe (Boston: Little, Brown, and Company, 1885), 411.

How to incorporate sources:

- Quoting: Directly pointing to an author or reference through quotation marks and/or reference

- Paraphrasing: Restating the original ideas or text in your own words. Requires citation

- Summarizing: Covering the main points of the original ideas or text. Also requires citation.

- Commenting: Writing your own opinion about the original ideas or text.

When to Quote, Paraphrase, Summarize or Comment

- **Quote** when "the wording is memorable or powerful" or when the author(s) created the word or phrase.

- **Paraphrase** when you don't "wish to quote but [need] details important to your point."

- **Summarize** when you want to include the main point but not the details from a long passage.

- **Comment** when you want to write your opinion about a passage

Andrea Lunsford, Everday Writer (3rd edition), p. 169

Avoiding A "Quote Rut"

Effective writers integrate quotations into their writing in a variety of ways. If you find yourself introducing quoted material in the same way again and again, think about familiarizing yourself with the following "signal verbs." They will help you to get out of a quote rut, making your writing more readable and dynamic.

- Acknowledges
- Advises
- Agrees
- Allows
- Answers
- Asserts
- Believes
- Charges
- Claims

- Concludes
- Concurs
- Confirms
- Criticizes
- Declares
- Describes
- Disagrees
- Discusses
- Disputes

- Emphasizes
- Expresses
- Interprets
- Lists
- Objects
- Observes
- Offers
- Opposes
- Remarks

- Replies
- Reports
- Responds
- Reveals
- Says
- States
- Suggests
- Thinks
- writes

Andrea Lunsford, Everday Writer (3rd edition), p. 171

[brackets], …ellipses… and (parentheses)

In direct quotations:

  [words you change or add]

   …deletions…

  (reference)

  "quotations" and 'quotations within quotations'

Example:

"A farmer, Jane Lee, spoke to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission about the occurrences. 'There is something wrong in the [Three Mile Island] area. It is happening within nature itself,' she said, referring to …birth defects in farm animals" (Key, 2008, p. 17).

Andrea Lunsford, Everyday Writer (3rd Edition), p. 171

5 Steps to Effective Paraphrasing

1. Reread the original passage until you understand its full meaning.
2. Set the original aside, and write your paraphrase on a separate page.
3. Check your rendition with the original to make sure that your version accurately expresses all the essential information in a new form.
4. Use quotation marks to identify any unique term or phraseology you have borrowed exactly from the source.
5. Record the source (including the page) with the paragraph so that you can credit it easily

Paraphrasing an Original Text

Original:

"The Antarctic is the vast source of cold on our planet, just as the sun is the source of our heat, and it exerts tremendous control on our climate," [Jacques] Cousteau told the camera. "The cold ocean water around Antarctica flows north to mix with warmer water from the tropics, and its upwellings help to cool both the surface water and our atmosphere. Yet the fragility of this regulating system is now threatened by human activity." From "Captain Cousteau," *Audubon* (May 1990):17.

Paraphrasing Example

According to Jacques Cousteau, the activity of people in Antarctica is jeopardizing a delicate natural mechanism that controls the earth's climate. He fears that human activity could interfere with the balance between the sun, the source of the earth's heat, and the important source of cold from Antarctic waters that flow north and cool the oceans and atmosphere ("Captain Cousteau" 17).

http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/6191/

Summarizing an Original Text

Original:

"Matisse is the best painter ever at putting the viewer at the scene. He's the most realistic of all modern artists, if you admit the feel of the breeze as necessary to a landscape and the smell of oranges as essential to a still life. "The Casbah Gate" depicts the well-known gateway Bab el Aassa, which pierces the southern wall of the city near the sultan's palace. With scrubby coats of ivory, aqua, blue, and rose delicately fenced by the liveliest gray outline in art history, Matisse gets the essence of a Tangier afternoon, including the subtle presence of the bowaab, the sentry who sits and surveys those who pass through the gate." From Peter Plagens, "Bright Lights." *Newsweek* (26 March 1990): 50.

Summarizing Example

Analyzing Matisse's painting of the Casbah gate, critic Peter Plagens describes how a variety of immediate sensory experiences are evoked in the viewer through the painter's masterly technique (Plagens 50).

This is more succinct than a paraphrase:

Matisse paintings are remarkable in giving the viewer the distinct sensory impressions of one experiencing the scene firsthand. For instance, "The Casbah Gate" takes one to the walled city of Tangier and the Bab el Aassa gateway near the Sultan's palace, where one can imagine standing on an afternoon, absorbing the splash of colors and the fine outlines. Even the sentry, the bowaab vaguely eyeing those who come and go through the gate, blends into the scene as though real (Plagens 50).

Want more practice? Check out the Purdue Online Writing Lab's paraphrasing exercises:

http://owl.english.purdue.edu/exercises/28/12/33

Quoting vs. Paraphrasing and Summarizing

"Students frequently overuse direct quotation in taking notes, and as a result they overuse quotations in the final [research] paper. Probably only about 10% of your final manuscript should appear as directly quoted matter. Therefore, you should strive to limit the amount of exact transcribing of source materials while taking notes. Lester, James D. Writing Research Papers. 2nd ed. (1976): 46-47."

Summary:

Students should take just a few notes in direct quotation from sources to help minimize the amount of quoted material in a research paper (Lester 46-47).

http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/6191/

Citation Format

- Every discipline has different formatting requirements.

- The social sciences generally use American Psychological Association (APA) format, while the humanities employ the Modern Language Association (MLA) format.

- Citational styles vary from individual discipline to discipline, and are often inconsistent between different academic journals in the same discipline.

- Your advisor will be the best person to ask about the chosen citation format of your department. Submission guidelines issued by most academic journals will specify their preferred format (or the journals managing editor can specify).

Citation Format

When formatting (or re-formatting) your writing into a new disciplinary style (APA, MLA, Chicago, etc.), pay attention to the following issues:

- Block quotations (length of quote requiring a block of text, margin indentation)

- Footnotes versus endnotes

- In-text citation format (page numbers, dates, author last name)

- Bibliographic format (books, scholarly journals, Internet sources)

Citing Internet Sources

- All style organizations are having to address the ways in which technology is continually changing how we conduct and cite research on the Internet.

- Older style guides may not have the most up-to-date formatting developments for Internet sources.

- For instance, MLA recently shifted away from requiring complete URLs for web-based sources, acknowledging that most people use search engines in lieu of recreating long URLs.

- Because online materials can potentially change URLs, APA recommends providing a Digital Object Identifier (DOI), when it is available, as opposed to the URL. DOIs are an attempt to provide stable, long-lasting links for online articles. They are unique to their documents and consist of a long alphanumeric code. Many-but not all-publishers will provide an article's DOI on the first page of the document.

- When in doubt, check the official website for the style format you are using for the current rules and regulations for citing online sources.

Maintaining a Working Bibiliography Using Research Software

- A common problem in graduate-level writing is how to negotiate with enormous bibliographies, especially in a dissertation-length project. Many writers find reference management software to be a help in corralling their sources and effectively generating bibliographies according to different conventions.

- Endnote is commercial software for designed for this purpose. It is rather expensive, but many writers find it invaluable to their work. UCI Libraries conduct regular workshops on how to effectively utilize Endnote. www.endnote.com

- Zotero is an open-source software that can be used to manage your references in a variety of formats, including PDFS. It is integrated directly into your browser, and synchs with most online library and periodical catalogues. It integrates with most commercial word processing platforms. Zotero generates in-text citations, footnotes and endnotes, and bibliographies in a variety of formats, and makes for conversion between formats quite painless. The best part: it's free! www.zotero.org

Common Misconceptions

Can't I avoid problems just by listing every source in the bibliography?

- o No, you need to integrate your acknowledgements into what you're saying. Give the reference as soon as you've mentioned the idea you're using, not just at the end of the paragraph.
- o It's often a good idea to name the authors ("X says" and "Y argues against X,") and then indicate your own stand ("A more inclusive perspective, however,…").
- o When in doubt, take a look at journal articles in your discipline to see how other writers in your discipline refer to their sources.

http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize

Final Tips to Avoid Plagiarism

- "maintain an accurate and thorough working bibliography"

- "establish a consistent note-taking system, listing sources and page numbers and clearly identifying all quotations, paraphrases, summaries, statistics, and visuals"

- "Identify all quotations with quotation marks, both in your notes and in your essay"

- "Prepare an accurate and complete list of sources cited according to the required documentation style [APA, MLA, Chicago, etc.]"

Andrea Lunsford, Everyday Writer (3rd edition), p. 175

Reference Guides

- Check the published guide to your citation style (MLA, APA, Chicago, etc.)

- Purdue's online writing lab (OWL) has an excellent series of writing guides organized by discipline. http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/4/

- Refer to *The Craft of Research* by Wayne C. Booth, et. al.

- *The Elements of Style* by William Strunk and E.B. White

More Information

- American Historical Association http://www.historians.org/governance/pd/curriculum/plagiarism_intro.htm

- Rutger's Gameshow http://library.camden.rutgers.edu/EducationalModule/Plagiarism/

- University of Southern Mississippi Tutorial http://www.lib.usm.edu/legacy/plag/plagiarismtutorial.php

- A Social History of Plagiarism by Dr. Jim Baumlin – Missouri State University, January 27, 2010 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zb0cdy3LwzY