



Plagiarism

What is Plagiarism?

- Plagiarism is a form of cheating
- When you plagiarize, you use someone else's ideas, information or words as if they were your own
- This denies the original author credit for his or her work
- It is unethical and can be illegal
- In all cases, plagiarism is wrong

How does plagiarism happen?

- By mistake
 - Students may not keep track of their research materials carefully
 - They may not know how to quote, cite or paraphrase correctly
- On purpose
 - Students buy, borrow or steal a paper or parts of a paper
 - They deliberately cheat because they want a good grade, positive feedback or one less piece of work

Who cares?

- If you plagiarize, you are likely to get caught
- Professors are good at detecting plagiarism
 - It's usually obvious when work is done by someone else
 - Many professors have access to software that helps detect and prove plagiarism
- Plagiarism damages your reputation and grades, and can eventually lead to expulsion from the university
- If you plagiarize habitually, you'll miss out on learning important skills

How can I avoid plagiarism?

- Always give original authors credit for their facts, ideas, and wording.
 - Paraphrase or use quotation marks properly
 - Use proper in-text citations
 - Include a Works Cited page whenever you use sources
- For research papers, keep track of whose ideas are whose in your notes
- If you jot down the exact words from any source in your notes, put them in quotes so you don't mistake them for your own words later on

What if I don't know how to cite correctly?

- Visit the SALT Writers Lab
- Ask an instructor for help

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