Avoiding Plagiarism Guide

Definition

Plagiarism is presenting someone else’s work as your own (Academic Honor Policy, 2022).

- **Intentional Plagiarism**: Sam copies—and–pastes from Wikipedia to finish their essay faster.
- **Unintentional Plagiarism**: Sam forgets where their word-for-word notes came from and doesn’t cite the original authors.
  - Intended or not, engaging in plagiarism is a violation of the Academic Honor Policy.

Advice

- Ask instructors/teaching assistants or FSU tutors if they would read your drafts and source materials two weeks before any deadlines.
- Review these ideas and practice these skills:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opinions</th>
<th>vs.</th>
<th>Facts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Our opinions don’t require…</td>
<td>- Agreement &lt;br&gt;- Evidence &lt;br&gt;- Permanence &lt;br&gt;- Reliability &lt;br&gt;- Validity</td>
<td>Facts require things like…</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Examples**

- History is easier for me to understand than math.
- I think it’s better to live near the Stadium.

**Tip**: If you’re sharing your own opinion, then you don’t need to cite or reference it. The opinions of others still require citation!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quoting &amp; Paraphrasing</th>
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**How to write exactly what someone else said/wrote**

1. Put “quotation marks” at the beginning & end of the quote.
2. Read your syllabus or ask your instructor what citation style to use.
3. Cite the source of information according to that citation style.
4. Create a reference list containing all your sources at the end of your paper (based on the required citation style).

**How to re-word an idea yet keep a similar meaning**

1. Practice changing the wording verbally / out loud.
2. Use synonyms that would match your audience & goals.
3. Rethink & change the sentence structure(s).
4. Compare your new phrasing to the original text to ensure that you’ve properly paraphrased.
5. Cite the source based on the required citation style & add it to your reference list.

*If someone has gathered/organized commonly known facts, their efforts still require citation!*

Resources

- **Your instructor** — the *ideal* resource — or the course’s teaching assistant(s)
- The Reading-Writing Center
- The Academic Center for Excellence
- FSU Libraries’ Citation Guides, Citation Generators, & Citation Management Programs
- iThenticate – A tool that checks for similarities between papers

Access the resources via this QR Code