

your quick guide to understanding

PLAGIARISM



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WHAT WILL GET YOU IN TROUBLE?

There are many types of plagiarism. Some of them are deliberate, while others might be unintentional. Just so we're clear, here are a whole bunch of things you should know:

things you need to cite:

- direct quotes
- ideas or concepts that you put into your own words
- information you used from any medium: books, magazines, blogs, web sites, emails, songs, movies... *any medium at all*
- an interview or personal conversation you had with someone
- any images, graphics, charts, illustrations, or other visual addition to your work
- songs or videos that you used to jazz up your presentation

things that are not cool:

- buying a paper off the Internet: even if you use the web to hire someone to write your paper, you are still billing someone else's work as your own. that, my friends, is a compromise of academic integrity.
- copying and pasting portions (big or small) from a web site, blog, magazine, or anything else: even if you change a few key words, you're taking someone's intellectual property.
- resubmitting work you did for a similar assignment in another class: yes, self-plagiarizing is a real thing!
- sharing homework answers among friends: it's the same as cheating on a test (which you shouldn't do, either).

if
you're not sure
if something needs
attribution,
CITE IT.

(you know, better safe
than sorry.)

why attribution matters

- if you do plagiarize, you will probably get caught: teachers are eerily good at spotting words and ideas that aren't yours.
- you'll end up looking pretty silly if the content you borrowed (or improperly cited) is wrong.
- if your integrity does come into question, you need to be able to locate the original source.

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what the heck is "common knowledge"?

common knowledge refers to facts and ideas that are generally accepted to be true. according to the OWL at Purdue, "you can regard something as common knowledge if you find the same information undocumented in at least five credible sources" (2009).

created by k. cawley in 2010 with a little help from the OWL at Purdue.
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01>