

Plagiarism

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http://www.plagiarism.org/learning_center/what_is_plagiarism.html

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Essentially, plagiarism is presenting someone else's work or ideas as your own.

People may not realize they are plagiarizing.

Forms of plagiarism:

1. Turning in someone else's work as your own
2. Copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
3. Failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
4. Giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
5. Changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit

6. Copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not (see our section on "fair use" rules)

Quotations and Citations

Use quotation marks and/or citations to give credit to someone else for their work and ideas, but beware!

Over-use or mis-use with little to no original work or ideas on your part is still plagiarism.

Mis-use of quotations marks

- Presenting wording that is too close to the wording of the original source and not including quotation marks
- Presenting work that consists mainly of quotations with little original thought

Mis-use of citations

- Changing the wording of an original course without citing the original source
- Presenting work that consists mainly of cited work with little original thought

The main point is that if your work is substantially the same as someone else's work, then presenting that work as your own is plagiarism.

Consequences

People also may not realize the potential consequences for plagiarism.

Academic Punishments*

Most colleges and universities have zero tolerance for plagiarists. In fact, academic standards of intellectual honesty are often more demanding than governmental copyright laws. If you have plagiarized a paper whose copyright has run out, for example, you are no less likely to be disciplined than if you had plagiarized copyrighted material.

A plagiarized paper almost always results in failure for the assignment, frequently in failure for the course, and sometimes in expulsion.

Legal Punishments*

Most cases of plagiarism are considered misdemeanors, punishable by **fines of anywhere between \$100 and \$50,000 -- and up to one year in jail.**

Plagiarism can also be considered a felony under certain state and federal laws. For example, if a plagiarist copies and earns more than \$2,500 from copyrighted material, he or she may face **up to \$250,000 in fines and up to ten years in jail.**

Institutional Punishments*

Most corporations and institutions will not tolerate any form of plagiarism. There have been a significant number of cases around the world where **people have lost their jobs or been denied positions** as a result of plagiarism.

*Categories and descriptions are taken directly from plagiarism.org, but with bold added for emphasis.

Ethics and the Nature of Science

(not from plagiarism.org)

Science is a philosophy of searching for the “truth” that is based on empirical evidence.

Despite human biases, in the end, science reveals the truths that can be found through empirical investigation.

Being untruthful is being unscientific.

Potentially unethical situations:

- Fraudulent work
- Published work
- Conferences
- Grants