

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the use of somebody else's words without attribution—in other words, copying and pasting from a book without saying that you're doing so. It's a fairly serious charge and can result in a failing grade .

In order to avoid plagiarism, and a potential failing grade, there are several ways to include external sources of information in your paper without plagiarizing.

REPHRASE WHAT YOUR SOURCE SAYS

You can use information that you find in an external source, as long as you're sure to rephrase the information in your own words—changing their order, or integrating two pieces of information together in a new sentence. As long as the information is written in your own voice, you do not have to worry about plagiarism.

CITE THE ORIGINAL SOURCE

By creating a bibliography of the works that you've used, you can quote directly from a source as much as you like—but only if you include a citation note after the quoted text. The librarians will be more than happy to help you with the details of various citation styles.

Be sure to check with your teachers for further information about citing your works, writing a bibliography and avoiding plagiarism.

QUOTE THE ORIGINAL SOURCE

If you don't want to rewrite somebody else's words, it is permissible to copy and paste the information into your document—but you must be sure to follow the rules for quoting material that's not your own. This includes offsetting quoted text, using quotation marks to indicate where the quote begins and ends, and adding a citation notice at the end of your quote.

Additional information about citation and formatting can be found here:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>

Remember that the Sowela Library & Learning Resource Center is always available to help you!

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