



Plagiarism

Plagiarism - "The action or practice of taking someone else's work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one's own; **literary theft.** "

("Plagiarism," *Oxford English Dictionary*, <http://www.oed.com/view/Entry/144939?redirectedFrom=plagiarism#eid>)

[U.S. Copyright Law](#) protects intellectual property. ex ideas, words, music, art, etc.

[U.S. Patent Law](#) protects inventions.

[U.S. Trademark Law](#) protects companies' commercial brands & logos.

"All of the following are considered plagiarism:

- turning in someone else's work as your own
- copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
- failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
- giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
- changing words but copying sentence structure of a source without giving credit
- copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not

Most cases of plagiarism can be avoided, however, by citing sources."

("What is Plagiarism," Plagiarism.org, <http://www.plagiarism.org/article/what-is-plagiarism>)

How to avoid Plagiarism

1. Effectively plan your paper/project and ask your professor or librarian for advice.
2. Your notes should be clear and easy to follow when you begin to cite.
3. If you have a question about your paraphrase, cite your source. If you use a direct quote, cite your source. Basically, cite your sources.
4. Clearly identify within your paper/project who said what, particularly if you are paraphrasing and mixing original phrases with your own.
5. Correct paraphrasing is an essential skill. Ask for help from your professor or librarian.
6. Always, always evaluate the sources you intend to use with an evaluation model, ex. [CRAAP](#).

(Paraphrased from "Preventing Plagiarism When Writing," Plagiarism.org, <http://www.plagiarism.org/article/preventing-plagiarism-when-writing>)

For more help, visit [Plagiarism.org](#) and the [Purdue OWL](#).

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