

# Plagiarism 101

## Definition:

Plagiarism: to steal and use the ideas or writings of another as one's own

You commit plagiarism whenever you use a source in any way without indicating that you have used it.

Plagiarism is a serious offense that could result in failing a course or being expelled from college.

## Common examples of plagiarism:

- Word-for-word continuous copying without quotation marks or citation
- Copying key words and phrases without quotation marks or mention of the author's name
- Paraphrasing without mention of the author's name
- Taking the author's idea or summarizing without acknowledging the source
- Submitting a paper or copying work from someone else
- Submitting a paper that you bought or downloaded

## Rewording a sentence can still be plagiarism without proper citation:

- Original: Some of the best cities to visit are Cedar Falls, Des Moines, and Waterloo.
- Plagiarized sentence: Des Moines, Waterloo, and Cedar Falls are the best cities to visit.
- Correct Sentence: Des Moines, Waterloo, and Cedar Falls are the best cities to visit (Source 5).

## No citation for quoted material is plagiarism:

- Source: "Plagiarism is punished in American schools."
- Plagiarized sentence: Plagiarism is punished in American schools.
- Correct sentence: "Plagiarism is punished in American schools" (Source 1).

## Advice:

Remember, citing sources is a sign of respect. It also showcases your ability to understand the material and makes your paper more memorable.

- Start your bibliography right away so it is easier to find where your information came from.
- Use quotation marks (when you did not change the original) and the correct required citation type (APA, MLA, Chicago/Turabian) for both in-text citations and the Works Cited page.
- When using information from a source without direct quotations, remember to summarize and paraphrase, using citations when necessary.
- When summarizing or paraphrasing, state a shortened and simplified version of the main ideas in your own words, using synonyms, the source's name, and in-text citations.

**Original:** In an article in *Language Learning & Technology*, Ravi Purushotma argues that multiplayer online computer games have the phenomenal ability to capture the attention of adolescent audiences and help them learn a second language.

**Summary:** To appeal to adolescents, Ravi Purushotma argues, language teachers can draw on "the phenomenal ability" of computer games to appeal to such audiences (86).

- Cite information that would not commonly be known, such as results from previous experiments, statistics, numerical information, etc.
- Common knowledge (dictionary definitions or basic encyclopedia facts) is not usually necessary to cite, but if you are unsure whether or not to cite a source, consult your professor or be on the safe side and cite it anyway.