

# PLAGIARISM

## What is it?

One HUGE misconception that students have is that rewriting something is not plagiarism, because they are "putting it in their own words." Well, if the source is not officially acknowledged, IT IS PLAGIARISM. The accessibility of the Internet makes plagiarism very tempting, and unintentional plagiarism springs from this as well. Simply stated, *plagiarism is using someone's work without giving the appropriate credit.*

## Examples of plagiarism:

- 1) Copying and pasting text from on-line media or any website is plagiarism.
- 2) Transcribing from any printed or on-line material is plagiarism. This means copying and writing, for instance, onto your notecards and subsequently into your paper or slides.
- 3) Simply modifying text from any source is plagiarism.

--For example, replacing a few select words using a thesaurus does not constitute original work.

- 4) Using photographs, video, or audio without permission or acknowledgement is plagiarism.
- 5) Using another student's work and claiming it as your own, even with permission, is academically unethical and is treated as plagiarism. This is known as "collusion."
- 6) Using an essay that you wrote for another class is plagiarism. I'm sure this must seem unreasonable to most of you, but this is simply how it is.
- 7) Correctly restating, quoting, or summarizing within your paper, *but without recognizing it with an in-text citation (parenthetical citation) AND on the "Works Cited" page is plagiarism.*

## Ways to Avoid Plagiarism:

- Use Quotes: Liz Culmone said, "Anyone can do easy."
- Paraphrase: Taking on a challenge that requires hard work is not for everyone.  
*The best way to paraphrase is to change important words and change the order of the words.*  
*Note how I paraphrased the above quote.*
- Summarize: Take larger amounts of text and put it into your own words but in a shorter paragraph...

...This is all very important, but only if you  
**Give credit to the source:**

Always cite your source on a Works Cited page or slide (copy and paste the web address into the slide or type the book's author and title).

## What should be cited?

- ANY information or *ideas* you took from a website
- Videos from YouTube or any other websites
- Pictures, photos, illustrations from the internet, including those you use as background on your slides. Be sure to copy the website's address, NOT the Google images search engine link.



Cartoon by Pirillo & Fitz, found at <http://www.edwise.org/to-catch-a-plagiarist>

## Using Reliable Sources

The most reliable source is the **PRIMARY SOURCE** = Primary Sources are immediate, first-hand accounts of a topic, from people who had a direct connection with it. *Examples include:*

- archives and manuscript material
- photographs, audio recordings, video recordings, films
- journals, letters and diaries
- speeches
- scrapbooks
- published books, newspapers and magazine clippings published at the time
- government publications
- oral histories
- records of organizations
- autobiographies and memoirs
- printed ephemera
- artifacts, e.g. clothing, costumes, furniture
- research data, e.g. public opinion polls

### Other Reliable sources:

- ✓ Google Scholar is an easy way to search for scholarly literature and peer reviewed material. You can search for articles, theses, books, abstracts and court opinions, as well as academic publishers, professional societies, online repositories, universities and other web sites. Because the material on Google Scholar is peer reviewed, it can be considered a highly accurate research source.
- ✓ Visit a museum online



Wikipedia is NOT a reliable source. Please do not use it!



**No Wikipedia**

Cartoon acquired at <http://www.rjmatson.com>

## Evaluating websites and their domains (.edu, .org, .gov, .com)

For a clue about the quality of the website source, check out the domain name suffix.

**.edu** -- Web addresses that end in .edu are usually reliable. The .edu suffix shows that the page was created by or for an educational institution or university.

**.org** -- Non-commercial organizations host .org web pages and are generally reliable. Many .org sites do have a specific bias towards that organization. For example: democrats.org or gop.org.

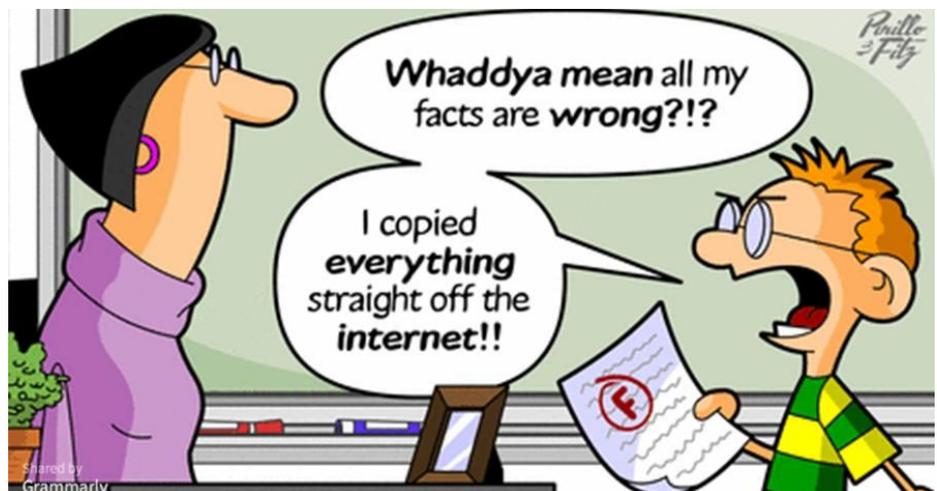
**.gov** -- The federal government, state agencies, and city and town governments use the .gov suffix. These sites are reliable sources of information for student research, and are great resources for historical and geographical information about the United States.

**.com** -- "Dot coms" are domain name suffixes used by commercial businesses selling a product or service. One must take this into account when evaluating its credibility as a source. The research behind claims made by a .com site is not subject to the same level of scrutiny and validation as an .edu or .gov site.

**SO... How do you find reliable sources? A source is most likely reliable if:**

- You can cross-check the information and find it in more than one place.
- You know who created the site and the author's credentials (the author is an authoritative voice or expert in his or her field).
- The information is up to date (you can find the copyright and know when it was last updated).
- The layout and format present information in a professional manner.
- There are no technical errors in the writing.
- The site is user-friendly and easy to navigate.
- There is no evidence of bias. In other words, the information presented covers all sides of an issue evenly and fairly.

Sources used in helping to create this handout:  
<http://www.mylowerites.com>  
[Grammarly.com](http://www.grammarly.com)  
[www.lib.uci.edu](http://www.lib.uci.edu)  
<http://www.kathleenamorris.com>



Cartoon by Pirillo & Fitz found at [www.mylowerites.com](http://www.mylowerites.com)