



## 1. WHAT IS PLAGIARISM?

A. Webster (www.webster.com) defines plagiarize as:

To steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own; use (another's production) without crediting the source

To commit literary theft; present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source

B. In the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (2010) Plagiarism is explained as “Researchers do not claim the words and ideas of another as their own; they give credit where credit is due (APA Ethics Code Standard 8.11, Plagiarism)”

Citing References in Text. Cite the work of those individuals whose ideas, theories, or findings have directly influenced your work, even if you are paraphrasing or describing someone else’s idea (APA, 2010, Chapter 6).

To avoid plagiarism, take careful notes as you research to keep track of all sources and collect the information you need to cite them properly. See Basics of APA Style Tutorial, at [Frequently Asked Questions About APA Style®](#) and [US University Guide to APA Style emphasis in electronic sources](#)

C. According to the MLA Handbook (Gibaldi, 2003) there are several forms of plagiarism:

- Obtaining a paper written by someone else and submitting it as your own work
- Repeating or paraphrasing wording without citation
- Inserting a particularly apt phrase from another source without citation
- Paraphrasing an argument or presenting a line of thinking without citation

D. Please review the US University definition and policy regarding plagiarism on page 50-51 of the US University Catalog

[http://www.usuniversity.edu/downloads/USU\\_Catalog.pdf](http://www.usuniversity.edu/downloads/USU_Catalog.pdf)

## 2. SUGGESTIONS TO AVOID PLAGIARISM

Use the following examples to help you attribute unoriginal ideas to the author:



Quotation marks should be used to indicate the exact words of another. Each time you paraphrase another author (i.e., summarize a passage or rearrange the order of a sentence and change some of the words), you need to credit the source in the text. (APA, 2010 p. 15)

- As the article's author suggests, "the role principles can play in medicine is influenced by the way ethics in general are conceived" (Limentani, 1999, p. 396).
- "The idea of naturalism in and of itself does not solve the problems of ethics in health care" (Limentani, 1999, p. 396).
- According to Limentani (1999), the philosophical difficulties persist and cannot be overcome by simply extending the concept of nature to include social and psychological factors (p. 396).

### 3. HAVE I PLAGIARIZED?

According to the MLA Handbook (Gibaldi, 2003), you have plagiarized if:

- You took notes that did not distinguish summary/paraphrase from quotation and then presented wording from the notes as if it were all your own
- While browsing the web, you copied text and pasted it into your paper without quotation marks and without citing the source
- You presented facts without saying where you found them
- You took someone else's unique or particularly apt phrase without acknowledgment
- You paraphrased someone else's argument or presented someone else's line of thought without acknowledgement
- You acquired a research paper and handed in part or all of it as your own

### 4. AVOIDING PLAGIARISM

According to Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA, 2010) you can avoid plagiarizing by:

- Take careful notes as you research to keep track of all sources and collect the information you need to cite them properly. See Basics of APA Style Tutorial, at [APA Style: Learning APA Style](#)
- The key element of this principle is that authors do not present the work of another as if it were their own work. This can extend to ideas as well as written words.
- If authors model a study after one done by someone else, the originating author should be given credit.
- If the rationale for a study was suggested in the Discussion section of someone else's article, that person should be given credit.



- Given the free exchange of ideas, which is very important to the health of intellectual discourse, authors may not know where an idea for a study originated. If authors do know, however, they should acknowledge the source; this includes personal communications. See APA, 2010 (6.03-6.08 & 6.11-6.20)

According to the MLA Handbook (Gibaldi, 2003), you can avoid plagiarizing by:

- Making a list of writers and viewpoints you discovered in your research, then double checking the presentation of the material in your paper
- Keeping the following categories distinct in your notes: (a) your ideas, (b) your summaries of other authors' materials, and (c) exact wording you copy
- Identifying the sources of all borrowed material—exact wording, paraphrases, ideas, arguments, and facts
- Checking with your Professor when you are uncertain about your use of sources.

## 5. HELPFUL TIPS

- The References page (bibliography) must include references cited within the essay (any assignment)
- If required to use APA style, it's a good idea to read the APA manual regarding use of quotations, references, etc.
- Ask the Professor about formatting concerns and review the writing style expected for course assignments

## 6. SOURCES USED FOR THIS HANDOUT:

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, D.C.

Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct. (2002). *American Psychologist*, 57(12), 1060-1073. Retrieved from PsycArticles. doi:10.1037/0003-066X.57.12.1060  
<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=pdh&AN=amp-57-12-1060&site=ehost-live>

Gibaldi, J. (2003). *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (6th ed., pp. 69-75). New York, NY: Modern Language Association of America.