Plagiarism and Citations!

Plagiarism is the use of someone else’s words, ideas, statistics, or interpretations, without acknowledging that they are not your own. If you use someone else’s words, be sure to use quotation marks and to cite your source. If you use someone else’s ideas, statistics or interpretations, be sure to cite them properly, even if they are in your own words.

See link below for a good visual to tell you when you need citations.

<https://www.easybib.com/guides/am-i-plagiarizing-advanced-infographic/>

Try this plagiarism quiz to find out how much you really know! Take notes on any items you get incorrect.

<https://www.easybib.com/guides/quiz-is-it-plagiarism/?related_post_from=17981>

One of the first things you have to ask your teacher is what type of citations they require for your assignment. There are two main formats: MLA and APA.

[https://www.easybib.com](https://www.easybib.com/guides/quiz-is-it-plagiarism/?related_post_from=17981)

**Examples of plagiarism & How to prevent it**

**Direct plagiarism:**

Intentionally copying another person’s work without including a citation that gives credit to the source. When most students are asked to identify potential plagiarism examples and behaviors, this direct and deliberate act is what they think of first.

* Prevention: If you use an idea or quote from another source, cite it in the text. Make it clear that it was not your own words.

**Incremental plagiarism:**

Copying parts of another person’s work, such as phrases, sentences, or paragraphs without crediting the source. When deciding which tools to use to **check a paper for plagiarism**, instructors often seek out those that will identify incremental forms as well as instances of direct copying and similar phrasing.

* Prevention: Decide to either directly quote the phrases or sentences you want to use, or write a good paraphrase. In both cases, be sure to add a citation. Using a plagiarism checker could also help you identify problematic passages.

**Self-plagiarism:**

Academic **self-plagiarism** occurs when a student submits the same paper or parts of a paper for more than one assignment. When your instructors are grading your papers, they’re assessing your research and writing skills in the present. When you submit work that you completed in the past, they are both unable to evaluate your current skills and unaware that you haven’t completed the assignment.

* Prevention: Write a new paper for each assignment you’re assigned. If you feel strongly that your past work could enhance your new paper, speak to your instructor and ask for permission first.

**Misleading citations:**

Including a citation for a quote or idea that misrepresents the source material. This can occur if a student does not understand the reference they are citing; if a student includes a citation for a disreputable source; or the source material simply does not align with the idea or argument that the student has attributed to it.

* Prevention: Carefully review your assignment to understand it. As you research, take the time to evaluate each source notes. Remember, it’s better to have quality citations over an abundance of citations.

**Invented sources:**

If a reference in a student’s bibliography is found not to exist, it is considered an invented source. This may occur if a student couldn’t find a reputable source to back their argument, or if they needed to include additional references to meet the requirements of the assignment and chose to take an unethical shortcut rather than completing the required amount of research. No matter the reason, this behavior ultimately hurts them in the long run. Not only will they fail to gain the experience they need to conduct research in the future properly, but they’ll also experience significant consequences if they’re caught.

* Prevention: Set aside time to do proper research so you can find enough sources. Start creating a list of sources as you’re researching and take good notes. This will help you keep track of your sources so none are forgotten. If you do end up forgetting where a quote came from, a paper checker could help you pinpoint the original source.

**Patchwriting/Spinning:**

Patchwriting is often confused with paraphrasing, but there’s a significant difference. When you paraphrase, you demonstrate that you understand the topic well enough to restate it in your own words. When you patchwrite or spin, it is more akin to a word-swapping game; there’s no need to understand the subject, merely to have access to a thesaurus so you can substitute enough synonyms to mask the source material. This can be intentional, but it may also be a result of having a poor understanding of how to paraphrase.

* Prevention: Using your own words, write down the key points of the phrase or idea, and put them together in a sentence. Be sure to include a citation as well.

A good way to test if you’re patchwriting or paraphrasing is to remove your sources from view. If you can write about what you’ve read without looking at the source material, you likely understand it well enough to paraphrase it. If you have to review the source material with each new sentence or consult a thesaurus while writing about it (except when you’re adding direct quotations), you may be spinning your sources instead of paraphrasing them.

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Academic Integrity Policies and Statements

If you’re still uncertain about what counts as plagiarism, look for your school’s/organization’s policies on academic integrity and plagiarism. The policies of academic institutions usually cover what is considered plagiarism, the consequences of committing it, and how to avoid it. One great example is [Purdue University’s Academic Integrity statement](https://www.purdue.edu/odos/osrr/academic-integrity/index.html).

What are the Consequences of Plagiarism?

No matter the setting, plagiarism is not taken lightly, and the consequences can be significant. For a good reason, too! Whether in an academic or professional setting, the plagiarism consequences reflect the seriousness of the act, which is ultimately a form of theft that hurts everyone involved.

Just as with the theft of a tangible object, there can be legal punishments for plagiarism. It is, after all, a form of copyright infringement in many instances. A quick search for plagiarism articles will reveal that professional instances of intellectual theft have resulted in civil lawsuits and can even be criminally prosecuted under rare circumstances. In addition to the possible legal consequences, professionals may lose their jobs or have to start over in a new field after their acts of fraud are uncovered.

As a student, you’re likely to wonder what happens if you plagiarize in college or high school. While there will almost always be consequences for this behavior, there is no one-size-fits-all plagiarism sentence. Depending on the circumstances, academic dishonesty could result in outcomes such as:

* You might get a zero for the assignment in which the infringement occurred.
* You may receive a failing grade for the class. If it is a required course, this could leave you without enough credits to move on to the next level until you can repeat it and, in some instances, postpone graduation.
* You may be expelled from your school or university.
* The academic dishonesty may be noted on your transcript, which can lead to you not getting into your preferred college, graduate school, or Ph.D. program in the future.

Nobody wants to be known as a fraud or to have a reputation for dishonesty follow them through their career. And, given the consequences that can extend beyond just their reputation, it’s no wonder that professional and academic writers who wish to avoid them take the time to understand the complete definition of plagiarism

Taken from : <https://www.easybib.com/grammar-and-plagiarism/>