Plagiarism:  What it is and how to avoid it

Plagiarism is defined as,

“the presentation of another writer’s ideas or words as if they were your own, without acknowledging the source” (297).

Sebranek, Patrick, Verne Meyer, and Dave Kemper. Write for College. Wilmington, Massachusetts: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1997.

Plagiarism is a very serious academic crime, and it will get you kicked out of most colleges.  In high school, materials or information that is intentionally plagiarized will earn you an automatic zero, a referral to your school administration, and a visit with your parents.  Do not do it!

For our purposes, there are three kinds of plagiarism:

1. Copying another student

When you “borrow” another student’s work and claim it as your own--like when you copy someone else’s answers, use their essay, or cheat in a similar way.

1. Copying and pasting a source

When you “borrow” a source of information and claim it as your own. Like when you copy and paste a passage from the internet into your own paper without properly identifying the source or using quotation marks.

1. Poorly (or not) documenting source information

When you do not clearly identify the source within a paper (with text notes) and/or do not quote (or you misquote) the passage.

When you use research but do not include a Bibliography or Works Cited.

How to Avoid Plagiarism

1. Document sources within your paper and at the end of the paper. Always,
   1. include text notes when applicable
   2. include a Works Cited (if using text notes) or a Bibliography.
2. Take notes correctly!
   1. **Quote** the text exactly. “Tag” the text with an introduction.

Brian Bayne, author of *Planets in Motion*, says, “Pluto is a counterfeit planet.”

* 1. **Paraphrase** the passage. All words must be your own.

Because of its size, Pluto is not considered a real planet.

* 1. **Paraphrase** most of the passage, but **quote** key words.

Many scientist don’t believe that Pluto is a planet; they call it “counterfeit.”

You try it!

Read the following passage, then take notes in the three ways described.

STONEHENGE  
Stonehenge is surely Britain's greatest national icon, symbolizing mystery, power and endurance. Its original purpose is unclear to us, but some have speculated that it was a temple made for the worship of ancient earth deities. It has been called an astronomical observatory for marking significant events on the prehistoric calendar. Others claim that it was a sacred site for the burial of high-ranking citizens from the societies of long ago.

<http://www.britannia.com/history/h7.html>

1. Quote the text with a tag: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. Paraphrase the text: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. Paraphrase but quote a few key words: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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