

Plagiarism:

What it is and How to Avoid it.

By Baker College of Clinton Township Library

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What is Plagiarism?

- Representing the ideas, expressions, or materials of another without due credit.
- Paraphrasing or condensing ideas from another person's work without proper citation.
- Failing to document direct quotations and paraphrases with proper citation.

Consequences

- Failure of assignment
 - Failure of course
 - Expulsion from the College
 - Rescind certificate or degree
- Any or all of these may apply.

(Baker College Honor Code)

Common Types of Plagiarism

- “Ghost Writer”—Turn in someone else’s work, word-for-word, as your own.



“Plagiarism?” But my roommate gave me permission to use his paper and said I didn't have to cite him.

Common Types of Plagiarism

- “Potluck Paper”—Copy from several sources and change only a couple of words.
- “Photocopy”—Use large chunks of texts without any changes or alteration.

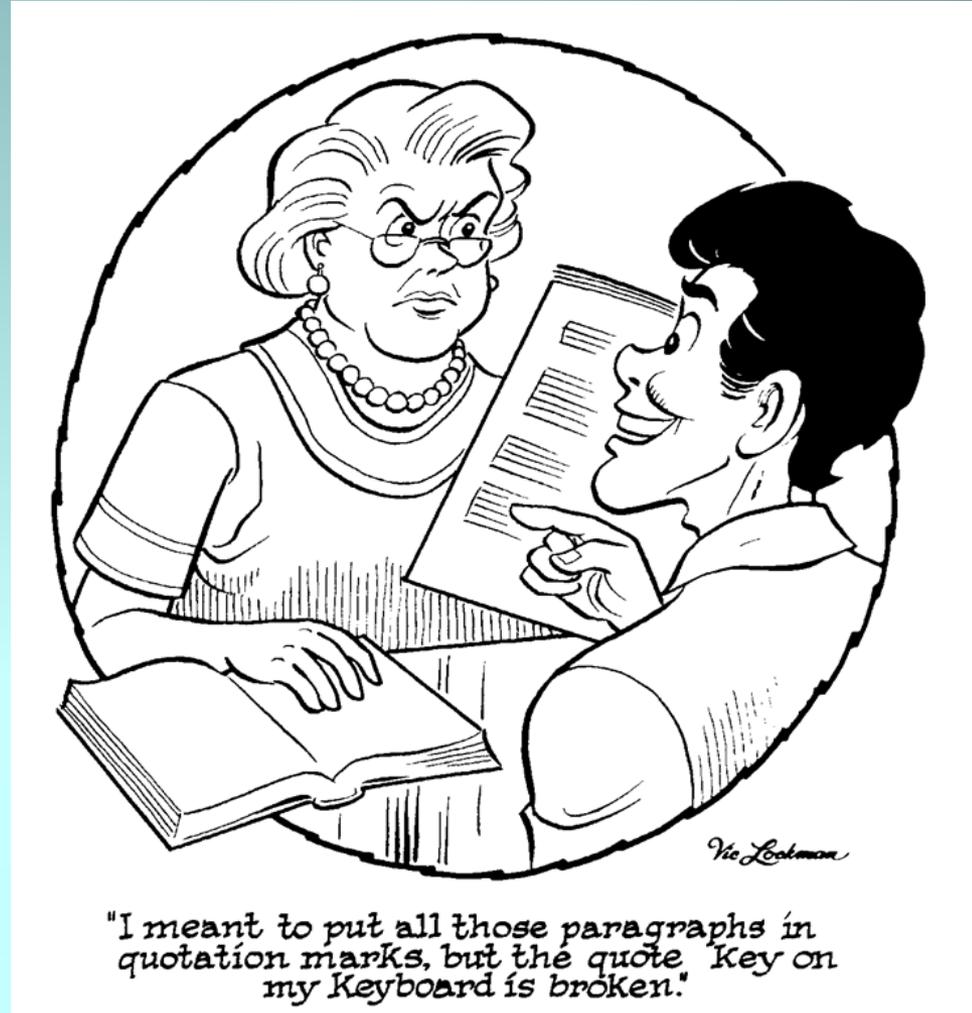


"Must be working on her research paper. I keep hearing her mumbling 'Edit, copy, edit, paste!'"

Common Types of Plagiarism

- “Forgotten Citation”—Mention an author or another work that is not represented on the Reference page.
- “Misinformer”— Give inaccurate information for the sources which makes it impossible to find.
- “Too-Perfect Paraphrase”— Forgetting the quotation marks for word-for-word quotations.

(Types of Plagiarism, Plagiarism.org. Images from Harris, R. (2001) *The Plagiarism Handbook*.)



How to Avoid Plagiarism?

Develop good Research Habits:

- Start Early! Good research takes time to find and synthesize.
- Decide which parts of your paper will need support before writing.
- Take clear notes and include citation information for all research.
- Make sure all of your sources have complete citation information.

Develop good Writing Habits:

- When in doubt, cite it.
- Be clear when switching between citation or paraphrase & original ideas.

Use Internet Help Tools like Turnitin.com

Visit the Writing Center and **Ask**

What are citations?

A citation is how you tell your reader what parts of your paper come from someone else and gives the reader information to find the source you cited.

They include:

- Information about the author
- The date it was published
- Title of the book/article/website
- The publisher/company responsible for the content
- The page number or paragraph number for quotations

Why use citations?

- To avoid plagiarism and, by extension, copyright violation (which is against the law).
- To help your reader access your research material.
- To strengthen your arguments with supporting evidence.
- To show how much research you have done.
- To help your reader determine which parts of the paper are your original ideas.

When to use citations?

In text

- Use someone else's words (direct quote, use “ ” marks).
- Use someone else's ideas and logic, but in your own words (paraphrasing, must change more than just a few words).
- Just using someone else's ideas (if you didn't think of it, cite it).
- Mention someone else's work.
- Using images or media files.

References page

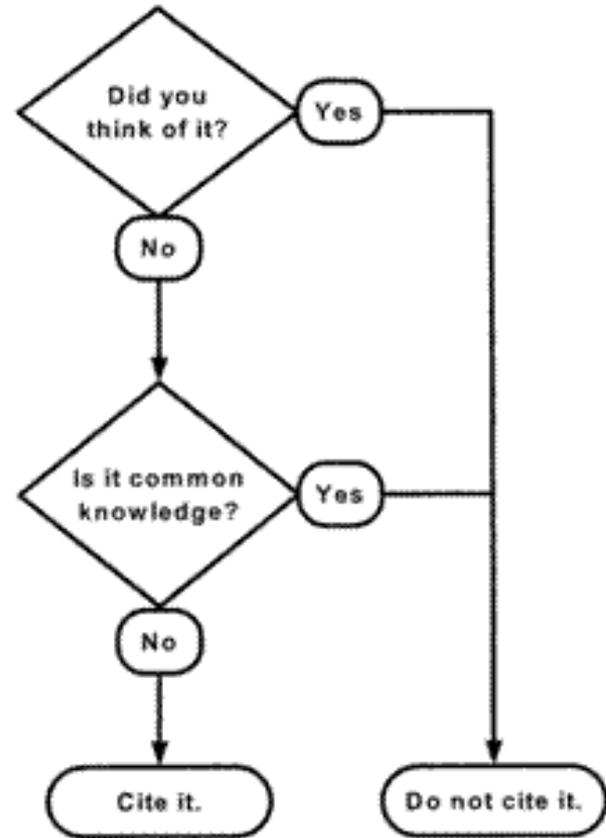
- Include all sources, books, articles, websites, etc. you used in your paper.

See Baker's "APA Citation Style—Citing Sources in the Text" handout & Baker's "APA References" handout for more information. Also see <http://guides.baker.edu/apahelp>

Citation Quiz—True or False?

- I do not have to cite the information, “President Lincoln’s 1863 Gettysburg Address is one of the most famous speeches in American history”.

True. If the information is widely known, that is know by a lot of people and found in many places, it is considered to be common knowledge and does not need to be cited.



Citation Decision Chart 1: When should you cite?

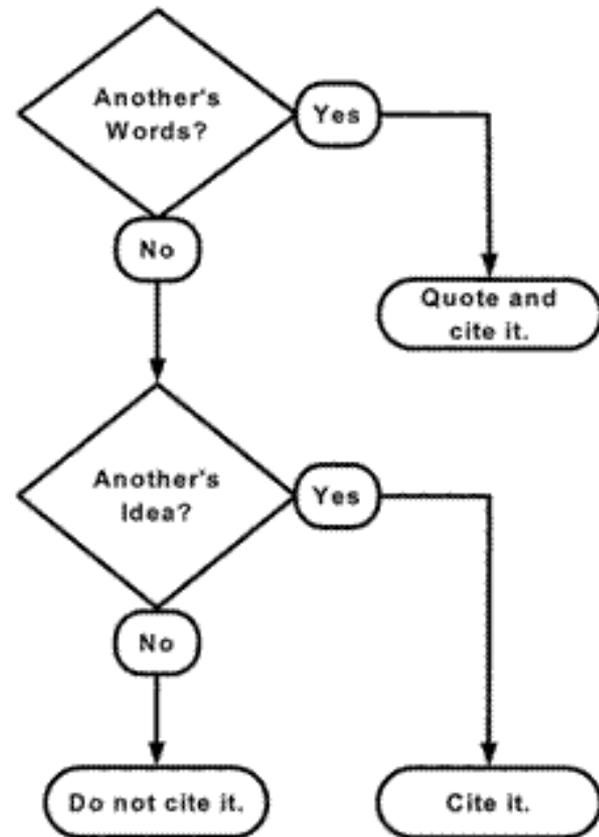
Citation Quiz—True or False?

- If I use pieces from an interview with my mom (who is an expert on my topic), then I have to cite her.

True. If you use someone's words, even your mom's, you have to give credit with a citation.

- As long as I don't use another's words, I can use their ideas without citing.

False. You have to cite any idea that you did not come up with on your own.



Citation Decision Chart 2: What needs to be cited?

Citation Quiz—True or False

- **Anything on the Internet is common knowledge and does not have to be cited.**

False. The Internet is still someone else's ideas and words and needs to be cited.

- **Any audio, video, or image files on the Internet are considered fair use and don't need citations.**

False. Any person's creative work, on the Internet or not, is likely protected by copyright and must be given proper citation.

Citation Quiz—True or False?

- It is ok to change some of the words in a quotation to better fit my paper.

False. While you may omit part of a quotation using (...), you cannot alter the meaning or otherwise falsify a citation. This would be considered plagiarism.

Questions?

References

Harris, R. (2001) *The Plagiarism Handbook*. Los Angeles, CA: Pyczaak Publishing.

Plagarism.org (2011). Retrieved from <http://www.plagiarism.org/>



"I should write my own papers more often. I can't believe all the neat stuff I'm learning!"