

University of Houston Clear Lake **WRITING CENTER**

How to Avoid Plagiarism

Plagiarism can be intentional or accidental. Intentional plagiarism is knowingly using someone else's words or ideas without giving them credit. Accidental plagiarism typically occurs when a writer paraphrases or summarizes someone else's work without giving them credit.

Using documentation and citing your sources is the best way to avoid plagiarism. Below are some examples of plagiarism and how to avoid them. ***Refer to your documentation style guide (such as APA or MLA) to properly cite your sources.***

Examples of Plagiarism

Plagiarism: Using the exact words of another author without indicating that these words belong to another author.

How to fix it: Enclose the words in quotation marks and include an in-text citation according to your documentation style.

Plagiarism: Summarizing the words of another author without indicating that the summary has been derived from another author.

How to fix it: Include an in-text citation with the summary according to your documentation style.

Plagiarism: Using the ideas of another author, also known as paraphrasing, without indicating that these ideas belong to another author.

How to fix it: Attribute ideas to the author in the text and include an in-text citation according to your documentation style.

Plagiarism: Presenting ideas in the text or words in a sentence in exactly the same order as in the author organizes their words or ideas.

How to fix it: Put everything away including your source and current draft, and write what you want to say from memory. Alternatively, do some additional research and/or discuss your ideas with a tutor. You need to create a discussion that sounds like you, not like the author.

Plagiarism: Engaging another writer, whether a professional, friend, or family member to write a document that you are expected to be solely responsible for writing.

Stealing, copying, or borrowing the writing of another author for the purpose of submitting the work as your own.

How to fix it: Trust your writing abilities. If you are worried about your ability to produce text, visit the Writing Center early in your composing process to learn strategies for writing.

Remember that if you copy or borrow a paper from another student, they also will be considered guilty of academic dishonesty.