

# Plagiarism

UHCL Writing Center

# What is plagiarism?

- From Latin root of “kidnap,” *plagiarist* meaning “literary thief,” *plagiarism* meaning “the act of stealing literature”
- In short, not giving proper credit for using someone’s writing or words.
- Different forms can be purposefully stealing someone’s work to pass along as your own, purposefully misrepresenting work as yours, and accidental misrepresentation.

# Cultural Aspects

- Educational expectations differ across cultures.
  - Some cultures do not require you to cite—if it is a “master” of the field, it is known who wrote the original information.
  - Some cultures view use of others’ work as a compliment that does not require a citation.
- American society views authorship as an individual achievement that deserves clarification of credit.
- Proper citations and crediting authors is an established part of Western education.
- Culturally speaking, neglecting to properly give credit is stealing information and passing it off as your own.
- In American education, plagiarism at any level is viewed as unethical and can result in failing a class, suspension, and, in the case of graduate school, repossession of a degree.

# Types of Plagiarism

- There are different types of plagiarism...
  - Word-for-word: a writer takes the exact wording of another author and does not quote or cite the wording. No changes to the original wording are made in this case.
  - Poor paraphrasing: a writer changes some of the wording so that it is not exactly word-for-word but does not reword all of the wording, leaving chunks of the author's original wording. Many students attempt this method by using synonyms for key terms and leaving the rest in the same wording.
  - Lack of citation only: a writer paraphrases an author's words very well so that the new wording does not resemble the original wording; however, the writer does not give credit to the original author for the idea.
  - Self-plagiarism: a writer uses a previously published or submitted paper/article for a new project, such as submitting the same research paper for two classes, without professors' permission. All writing is original, but two grades are earned for the same work.

# Word-for-Word Plagiarism

- Word-for-word: a writer takes the exact wording of another author and does not quote or cite the wording. No changes to the original wording are made in this case.

The studies found **no significant correlation between the age of the correspondents and their preferences for methods of financial investments** despite previous research suggesting that younger investors would tend toward those methods that have a faster yield or return.

Johnson (2010) stated that there is **no significant correlation between the age of the correspondents and their preferences for methods of financial investments** even though previous researchers anticipated that younger individuals would want to receive returns sooner than others.

## Word-for-Word Plagiarism: Solution

- To use an author's original wording, use quotation marks around the author's words and, if it is a printed resource, give a page number.

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Johnson (2010) stated that there is **“no significant correlation between the age of the correspondents and their preferences for methods of financial investments”** even though previous researchers anticipated that younger individuals would want to receive returns sooner than others (p. 34)

# Poor Paraphrasing Plagiarism

- Poor paraphrasing: a writer changes some of the wording so that it is not exactly word-for-word but does not reword all of the wording, leaving chunks of the author's original wording. Many students attempt this method by using synonyms for key terms and leaving the rest in the same wording.

The early Renaissance-era painting of Caravaggio ushered in a new understanding of light in painting, specifically with regard to how it was used to highlight aspects of a scene and how shadows could be used to add intensity with simple subjects.

Farmer (1994) states that Caravaggio's Renaissance **painting** brought **in a novel understanding of the use of light in art, specifically considering how painters used it to spotlight characteristics of a scene and how they could use shadows to add intensity with simple topics.**

## Poor Paraphrasing Plagiarism: Solution

- Poor paraphrasing can be corrected by not simply replacing key words but considering the idea or main point of a passage, rewriting the entire idea in your own words, and using your own sentence structure to ensure a unique writing style.

The early Renaissance-era painting of Caravaggio ushered in a new understanding of light in painting, specifically with regard to how it was used to highlight aspects of a scene and how shadows could be used to add intensity with simple subjects.

Farmer (1994) states that one of the primary additions to earlier Renaissance painting style was introduced by Caravaggio in the form of a novel use of lighting; rather than having simple light, Caravaggio emphasized particular areas of a scene through spotlighting figures while also using shadows for added dramatic effects.

# Lack of Citation Plagiarism

- Lack of citation only: a writer paraphrases an author's words very well so that the new wording does not resemble the original wording; however, the writer does not give credit to the original author for the idea.

Aviation crashes that occurred pre-1997 tended to be the result of design flaws in plane models, a lack of advanced technology, and poor communication among the cabin crew. More recent incidents have tended to be a consequence of miscommunications and weather-related issues.

Aviation incidents post-1997 are mostly attributed to **a lack of proper communication and severe weather** rather than **the previous issues of poor technology and flaws in overall airplane design**.

## Lack of Citation Plagiarism: Solution

- To correct these issues, ensure that you give proper credit through citations even though you did not quote the material. A paraphrase is still a use of another author's ideas—you must cite it even if it is in your own words.

Aviation crashes that occurred pre-1997 tended to be the result of design flaws in plane models, a lack of advanced technology, and poor communication among the cabin crew. More recent incidents have tended to be a consequence of miscommunications and weather-related issues.

Aviation incidents post-1997 are mostly attributed to a lack of proper communication and severe weather rather than the previous issues of poor technology and flaws in overall airplane design (**Allen, 2008**).

# Self-Plagiarism

- Self-plagiarism: a writer uses a previously published or submitted paper/article for a new project, such as submitting the same research paper for two classes, without professors' permission. All writing is original, but two grades are earned for the same work.
- This can be partial or in-part usage of a previous paper or assignment.
- To avoid this, always communicate with your professors regarding a request to use a previously submitted work. If the grading professor gives permission, you can reuse a paper.

## It is not plagiarism if you...

- show an author's original words in quotation marks and provide a citation to give credit to the author.
- offer a good paraphrase without quotes and give a citation to credit the original author.
- summarize the information with a good paraphrase along with a citation.

## Double-check your work

- It is a good idea to double-check your work to ensure that you are not accidentally plagiarizing.
- Identify which areas are your ideas and which were taken or gleamed from another author's work? Are those sections informed by others' works properly credited?
- Do you have a citation for all paraphrasing and summary sections?
- Don't leave citations until the end, as you might forget to give a citation later—instead, write down a citation as soon as you incorporate the information so you don't forget.

# Quiz

Try the quiz and see how well you understand plagiarism.

Once you review the answers, ask if there are any answers you do not understand.