

Plagiarism

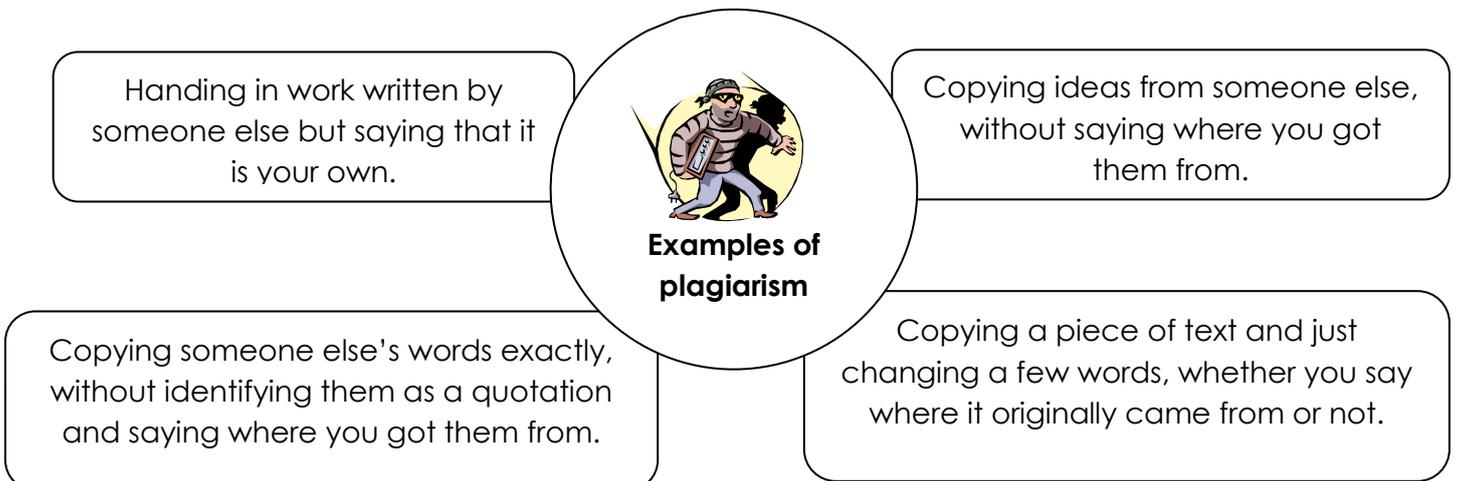
This guide explains what plagiarism is, what it looks like and what you can do to avoid it.

For more detailed information and examples, take a look at the University of Leeds Library page on plagiarism at:

https://library.leeds.ac.uk/info/485/academic_skills/338/academic_integrity_and_plagiarism/1

What is plagiarism?

Plagiarism is when you take someone else's work or idea and present it as your own. It is a form of cheating. It doesn't matter whether the original work was in print or on the Web – if you use someone else's work without giving them credit, it is plagiarism.



Why bother about plagiarism?

Tutors will look for evidence of plagiarism in your work. The College also uses specialist software to test for plagiarism.

The consequences of plagiarism can be very serious.

If the plagiarism is minor and unintentional it you might be given the chance to rewrite your work.

If it is deliberate or extensive you could face disciplinary action and fail your assignment or the whole course.

Remember - doing research is a good thing! You are likely to write better assignments if you find out what other people have written on a subject and refer to it in your work. You just need to use the information fairly and reference your sources.

What does plagiarism look like?

A common way people commit plagiarism is by copying and pasting chunks of text from the Internet and just changing a few words.

What you need to do is:



To paraphrase correctly you need to change the words and the structure of the sentence but keep the meaning of the original text. Here is an example:

Original text:

Logic would dictate that as the USA and the USSR fought as allies during World War Two, their relationship after the war would be firm and friendly. This never happened and any appearance that these two powers were friendly during the war is illusory.

Copied with a few words changed:

Plagiarism

Logic would say that as the USA and the USSR fought on the same side during World War 2, their relationship after the war would be strong and friendly. This didn't happen and any appearance that these two powers were friendly during the conflict is an illusion.

Paraphrased and referenced:

OK

It is a mistake to assume that just because the USA and the USSR fought on the same side during World War Two they would be on friendly terms, either during the conflict or in the years that followed (Trueman, 2011).

Reference

Trueman, C. (2011) *What was the cold war?*

Available at:

<http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/what%20was%20the%20cold%20war.htm> (Accessed:

20 October 2013).

What can I do to avoid plagiarism?

- Allow yourself enough time to do your research – if you are panicking about getting your assignment finished you may be tempted to copy someone else's work.
- Write things in your own words – try to do this when you are researching, rather than just copying.
- Make a note of all the sources of the information you find, as you find them – it can be difficult to remember where something came from later.
- Reference your sources properly – the **Library Referencing Guide** can help you do this.